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Witch-hunt claim by 'sacked' NHS chief

Chloe aims to ease troubled minds

Welcome to your Champion 23rd Birthday feature-packed edition

West End Primary School headteacher Phil Clarke greets Councillor Nikki Hennessy

County's schools chief goes back to the classroom

LANCASHIRE'S education chief went back to school for the day when she enjoyed a tour of Ormskirk West End Primary.

County Councillor Nikki Hennessy, the county's lead member for schools, was met by headteacher Phil Clarke, head girl Fay Clarkson and head boy Abdul Vahhab who took her around each class at the school in Grimshaw Lane.

The former Mayor of West Lancs also enjoyed lunch with pupils in the dining hall before a question-and-answer session about her past and present roles with members of the school's pupil council.

Cllr. Hennessy said: "I had a lovely afternoon with the pupils, they are a credit to their parents and to the school. I had a good chat over a tasty lunch and then I had quite a grilling from the pupil council!

"I'd like to thank Mr Clarke, his fabulous staff and the amazing pupils of West End School for being so welcoming."

MUM'S NEW CALL FOR BARRIER AT M58 'BLACK SPOT'

Latest crashes spark renewed plea for better safety measures

by Danielle Thompson

THE mother of a young man who was killed at an 'accident black spot' on the M58 has renewed calls for a crash barrier after two cars were involved in terrifying near-fatal accidents during the foul weather following Storm Doris last week.

Susan Davies' son Robert, 26, was killed when his car, heading westbound on the motorway, left the carriageway around a mile from Junction 1, went down the embankment, crashed through a wooden fence and rolled over into an adjacent field in August, 2011.

An investigation later found the accident may have been caused by excess water on the road.

Susan originally contacted the Champion in January 2015 after father-of-three David Dale, 68, died in a similar accident on the same stretch of the M58 on Boxing Day, 2014 and launched a campaign for a crash barrier to be installed on the stretch, which she believes is an accident 'black spot.'

The Highways Agency resurfaced more than 200 metres of the stretch later that month and Susan hoped it would cut the number of accidents.

But there have been more than 40 on the stretch of road in the last five years - at least five since it was resurfaced, including two in the last week which saw cars hurtling down the embankment.

One crashed through the fence just yards from where Robert died and the other rolled down until coming to rest on its roof at the edge of the fence.

The car which crashed on the Tuesday morning landed on its roof next to the fence with panels broken from the previous night's crash

Susan is now more determined than ever to cut the number of accidents at the spot in memory of her son - and to prove to Robert's nine-year-old son that his dad's death was not his own fault.

In the most recent incidents the first car crashed down the embankment and through the fence at around 11pm on Monday, February 27. The second crash, which saw the car roll onto its roof, happened just hours later at 7.30am the following morning.

Susan is calling for a flashing sign

Continued inside

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Writing event at Burscough Wharf

A FREE event entitled Writing a The Wharf, will be held at the Rose Tree Tea House at Burscough Wharf tomorrow (Thursday, March 9).

Led by author Christina May, and running from 10am to noon, this is aimed at anyone planning to write their life story.

Christina is most noted for her family memoirs, but has also contributed to newspapers and magazines, as well as 'ghosting' biographies.

For more information, visit www.visitlancashire.com/whats-on/writing-at-the-wharf.

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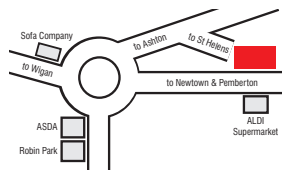

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Members of staff at the Naval Engine Holding Unit in Burscough

Historian's appeal for info about post-war operation at former Naval air station

A HISTORIAN is hoping to tap into local knowledge to help him fill in the gaps in his information about the former Royal Naval Air Station, HMS Ringtail, in Burscough.

Lawrence Critchley is appealing to anyone who can provide him with more details about the site, which now houses the Ringtail Retail Estate, from the end of the Second World War to more recent times.

He said: "There is a gap in my information about the role of the former air station after the war.

"After Royal Naval Air Station Burscough closed in 1946 for flying, the station was reduced to the status of care and maintenance.

"Thereafter, the former HMS Ringtail was taken over by Naval Air Station Stretton as a subsite known as a Naval Engine Holding Unit. Aircraft engines were both stored and serviced there and there were a number of Navy personnel based there at the time as well.

"The Royal Navy finally gave up the station in 1957 and the grassed areas reverted to agriculture again. In later years the industrial estate was built on parts of the site.

"Although much is known about the history of HMS Ringatil during its World War Two operational years 1943 to 1946, little is known about the site's post-war years and in particular the engine holding unit and what was going on there.

"We know that local people worked there and it would be wonderful if anyone had any stories of their time there or pictures that would help to fill a gap in the knowledge of the former Burscough Naval Air Station."

If you think you can help, or know anyone who can, contact Lawrence Critchley by calling 07484 678297 (after 5pm); emailing LolCritchley@aol.com; or writing to him at Fairlawn, 235 Liverpool Road, Rufford, L40 1SD.

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Trust investigation was a 'witch-hunt' says former HR boss

'Money should have been spent on improving local health services'

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

ONE of the former Southport Hospital Trust bosses caught up in whistleblowing allegations, has branded the investigation as a witch-hunt.

Former human resources director, Sharon Partington, hit out at the way the accusations against her and three other colleagues were handled, and told the Champion she is 'appalled' at the length of time and the cost of the investigation.

She said the money spent on a 'witch-hunt' against her should have been spent on improving local health services.

Mrs Partington was suspended from her post along with three other NHS bosses at the Town Lane trust in 2015.

She retired from her role during her suspension but it was ruled that she would have been sacked had she still been in the role.

Sharon Partington

An 18-month investigation into allegations of gross misconduct concluded last year when it was decided that there would have been suitable grounds to terminate her contract due to what was described as 'gross misconduct.'

However, an appeal by Mrs Partington saw the ruling overturned to one of 'misconduct.'

Speaking to the Champion, she described the entire ordeal as a 'stressful witch hunt.'

She said: "I am very disappointed with the outcome of the appeal but I am glad that my appeal was partially upheld and that the sanction of gross misconduct and two allegations of misconduct were overturned.

Ordeal

"I retired at the end of August 2016 as planned after 24 years service at the trust.

"I'm very proud of what the trust and the staff have achieved during my employment with the trust.

"I am glad the ordeal is now over and the witch-hunt against me has now concluded which has affected me and my family's health and well-being.

"I now wish to enjoy my planned retirement with my husband and put this terrible ordeal behind me.

"My family wish to thank our friends, staff past and present and colleagues across the NHS for all their support over the last 18 months.

"As a local resident I am appalled at the length of time and the cost of the investigation which should have been spent on improving local health services.

"I also hope that the public gets behind the campaign to keep vital hospital services local and that the trust continues to recruit and retain vital staff to keep our health services viable."

Of the four bosses embroiled in the scandal, only deputy director of performance Richard McCarthy remains an employee of the trust after he was cleared of all charges.

Sheilah Finnegan, former chief operating officer, also retired during the investigation, with no case to answer, while sacked chief executive, Jonathan Parry, plans to take his sacking to the High Court, as exclusively revealed in last week's Champion.

Southport & Ormskirk NHS Trust declined to comment when approached by the Champion.

Renewed call for crash barrier at M-way 'black spot' after cars spin off into field during storm

From Page 1

to be installed warning drivers to slow down; a crash barrier put up instead of a wooden fence; and 600 metres of the road resurfaced more effectively to stop cars from 'aqua-planing' when water pools on the carriageway.

She told the Champion: "When I found out about the cars smashing down the embankment I felt sick. It brought it all back to me and I was horrified when I saw that one had broken through the fence only yards from where we lay flowers for Robert.

"Cars are still coming off all the time and it's a hazard, a death trap - it's only a matter of time until someone else's family goes through the horror that we have when someone is killed.

"I won't stop campaigning until someone listens and a proper crash barrier and warning signs are installed - the current resurfacing clearly hasn't worked."

Heritage group talk to trace history of Mere

MARTIN Mere will be the topic at the next meeting of the Burscough Heritage Group on Monday, March 13.

The talk, 'Draining the Mere, its history and heritage over the years' will be held at the Blue Mallard at Burscough Wharf, starting at 7.30pm.

It will feature contributions from speakers who have been researching into the history of the mere and from farmers who have worked and still are working the land in this area.

Group member, Colin Wareing, said: "Back in 1692, Thomas Fleetwood Esquire of Bank Hall obtained an act of parliament to enable him to start draining Martin Mere.

"Various schemes and solutions to keeping the water levels under control have been used over the last 300 or so years.

"Flood gates were used until steam, diesel and latterly electric-driven pumps came along.

"These schemes enabled the land around Burscough to become some of the most fertile agricultural land in the country and had a great bearing on how the village has developed."

Entry to the talk costs a £2 donation to the heritage group. For more information, call Colin on 07931 356 204.

Right: The view from the Ron Barker Hide at Martin Mere

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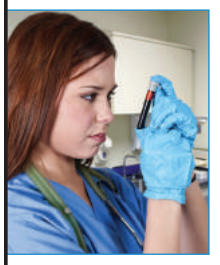

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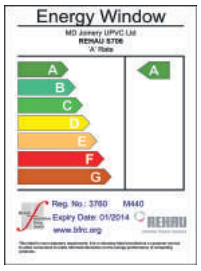

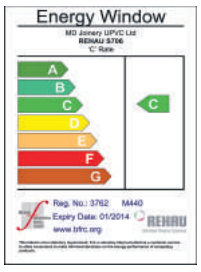

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Bank hosts anti-fraud event

BANKING staff are holding a fraud-awareness event to help West Lancs residents prevent themselves from becoming the victim of a scam.

Staff at the Santander branch in Moor Street, Ormskirk are hosting the free, open-day event from 9am to 5pm on Thursday, March 17 to offer impartial advice to protect attendees from financial fraud.

The event is being held to raise awareness of the bank's new national anti-fraud campaign, Take Five, which urges members of the public to stop and consider for five minutes before making any decisions to disclose their personal information, in an effort to reduce the number of scam victims.

Officers from Lancashire Constabulary will also be present on the day to support the initiative and speak to residents about ways to help combat fraud and to give advice.

Natalie Davis, Santander Ormskirk's branch director, said: "Fraud is evolving massively every day and we are here to help protect our customers by educating them in ways to identify fraudsters and prevent being a victim of scams.

"We would like to encourage as many people to Take Five and attend our event to hopefully gain insight on ways of protecting their finances in the future."

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Staff at the Ormskirk branch of Santander are supporting the bank's Take Five campaign

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Drink-driver banned despite magistrates' sympathy for 'significant consequences'

By our **Court Reporter**

A COURT heard how a Haskayne woman will suffer "immense consequences" after being caught drink-driving.

Deborah Whalley, 56, of Rosemary Lane, appeared at Sefton Magistrates Court on Thursday, March 2 where she pleaded guilty to driving with 76 micrograms of alcohol in 100 ml of breath, the legal limit being 35mcg/100ml.

Andrew Page, prosecuting, said she was stopped by police in her Ford Fiesta on the Esplanade, Southport, at 2am on February 12 after she was seen to be driving erratically.

"She was speeding up and slowing down and moving from side to side," Mr Page said. "She was stopped and the officer could smell alcohol on her breath. There was a front seat passenger she said she was going to drop off in Ainsdale and then go on to Haskayne."

Defence solicitor Mark Phillips said it was "a very sad set of circumstances" and that Mrs Whalley was "a lady you would never expect before the courts."

He said that Mrs Whalley's family suffered a bereavement 14 months ago and that whatever the penalty the court imposed she would suffer consequences, because of the inevitable disqualification and the lack of public transport where she lives.

"The consequences of this disqualification are immense," he said. "Her daughter is going to have to change schools and it looks like she will not be able to get to Skelmersdale, where she works, and so will lose her job."

About the driving offence, he said: "She rarely goes out and had gone to see a friend and had something to eat, and she accepts that she had been drinking. She was intending to stay at her friend's address which is approximately three-and-a-half miles from where she set off. She did not realise there was anything wrong with her driving."

The magistrates expressed sympathy with Mrs Whalley but emphasised that drink-driving leads to significant numbers of people losing their lives on the road each year. Fining her £102, ordering that she pay associated costs of £115, and banning her from driving for 17 months, chairman Alan Crossland said: "We have listened to all the circumstances about you, and it's a sad case. We have noted your good character and clean driving licence, that you fully co-operated with police and your very obvious remorse. And we have heard of the significant extra consequences to your personal life that this ban will cause. However, we would say these consequences are as a result of your actions."

Civic approval for Prince's Trust team's cricket club project

MAYOR of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage was bowled over when she went along to inspect the latest project completed by local Prince's Trust volunteers.

The young members of the trust's Ormskirk Team 13 tackled a project renovating the grounds at Burscough Cricket Club.

And Cllr. Savage was suitably impressed by their efforts at the School Lane club.

The Prince's Trust Team programme for unemployed 16 to 25-year-olds aims to help them acquire the skills, experience and confidence to help them find a job.

During each 12-week project they tackle tasks such as fundraising and helping local communities.

The six-strong group from Ormskirk Team 13 completed their course by working on a gardening project at the cricket club for eight days, which involved mowing the field, removing dead plants and weeds and disposing of debris and litter.

Jessica Gallagher, assistant team leader for the Ormskirk and Southport Prince's Trust, said: "The team taking part in the current Ormskirk Prince's Trust course have worked hard over an eight-day time period to renovate the grounds and restored the cricket club to its former glory.

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage with members of the Ormskirk Prince's Trust Team 13 inspecting their project at Burscough Cricket Club

"The club has a strong connection to the local community in Burscough and is used by various groups of people for recreational purposes."

Staff are now taking applications for the next Prince's Trust project, which will start on Monday, May 8. For more information contact Ormskirk team leader Jonathon Marlow on 07870168529.

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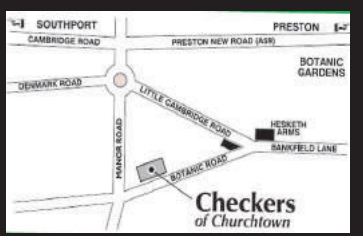

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Lucy and pals 'leg it' to raise £6,000-plus for charity!

Lucy Baxer (centre, with pink trainers) and fellow participants at the finishing line of her 'Leg it for Lucy' fundraiser

A TEENAGER who is battling a chronic lung condition raised more than £6,000 for charity by completing a sponsored 22km run from Burscough to Preston - with more than a little help from her friends!

Eighteen-year-old Lucy Baxter, who has lived with Cystic Fibrosis for most of her life, wanted to raise awareness of the disease and funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

She was first diagnosed with the genetic condition, which affects all organs of the body but especially the lungs and the digestive system, at just two-and-a-half.

Along with 60 supporters, with ages ranging from six to 60-plus, she raised a total of £6,013.75 with her 'Leg it for Lucy' charity marathon on Saturday, March 4.

Supported by 20 volunteer stewards, the participants ran, walked or cycled from St John the Baptist Church in School Lane, Burscough to the Methodist Church Hall in New Longton.

The idea for the run came about when Lucy decided to take up running to improve her fitness and lung capacity. Initially the plan was for her to be able to run a few kilometres and she texted a handful of friends to see if they would like to join her and maybe get some sponsorship. This seed of an idea very quickly grew and within an hour more than 30 people had offered to join in!

Although she lives in New Longton, Lucy and her family are very much part of the Burscough community. She started worshipping at St John the Baptist after finding that churches closer to her home didn't have many young people for her to make friends with and now spends most weekends with her friends in Burscough.

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Chloe's aiming to put our troubled minds at ease

Former Ormskirk Grammar school pupil pens book about overcoming anxiety

Report by **Henry James**

A FORMER Ormskirk Grammar School pupil who grew up in Skelmersdale has joined the ranks of published authors with a book about how to overcome anxiety.

Now Chloe Brotheridge is hoping her literary effort, published by Penguin and entitled *The Anxiety Solution: A Quieter Mind, a Calmer You*, will help people to cope with the stresses and strains of modern-day living.

Having qualified as a hypnotherapist, 30-year-old Chloe now lives and works in London, although she was born at Ormskirk Hospital, lived in Skelmersdale until she was 18 and travels home regularly to visit family in the town.

She said: "The book took about eight months to write - although it's been years in the making as I've collected techniques, tools and insights for handling anxiety over many years of experiencing anxiety myself and working as a therapist."

Chloe trained as a hypnotherapist five years ago and has been helping clients ever since.

She added: "Anxiety, worry and fear are normal human experiences, however in modern life, fear is being triggered in situations which aren't really dangerous.

Chloe Brotheridge

"We aren't likely to be chased by a hungry bear, for instance, but our minds and bodies respond as if we are. For example, when we're under a huge amount of pressure at work or by getting caught up with comparing ourselves to other people on social media.

"Add to that our fast-paced lives, the fact that many of us don't switch off and a lack of support and understanding around mental health, and it means that 22% of us feel anxious all or most of the time, according to the Mental Health Foundation."

Chloe said her book uses the latest scientific research and her own personal experience to create a programme that she claims has already helped thousands of her clients to overcome anxiety.

"It's incredibly rewarding being able to help people to feel better and to show them that they don't have to feel anxious forever.

"Many people with anxiety are incredibly hard on themselves, beating themselves up over minor things.

"I'd say start with trying to be gentler with yourself; treating yourself as you would a good friend. Being kinder to yourself might also mean making more time to relax, taking breaks at work, telling people how you feel and asking for help if you need it."

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Burglars made off on victims' motorbike!

POLICE are appealing for information following a burglary at a house in Mere Brow in which raiders stole jewellery and watches before riding off with the victims' distinctive motorbike!

The intruders struck at the property in The Gravel between 6 and 8pm on Monday, February 20.

After taking items from the house the raiders also stole the keys and rode off on a green Kawasaki Ninja motorbike with the registration plate PJ10 YSO.

Detective Constable Kelly Rosenthal said: "We are keen to hear from any witnesses who may have seen or heard anything around the time of the burglary. If anyone has any information or has seen the stolen motorbike I would urge them to contact us as soon as possible."

Anyone with information can contact the police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at Crimestoppers-uk.org.

The distinctive green motorbike stolen from Mere Brow

Chance to improve computer skills...

BURSCOUGH residents who would like help with improving their computer skills are being invited to take part in weekly drop-in sessions.

Members of the Burscough Hub group are holding skills sessions for anyone needing to upgrade their computer skills, sort out a problem or just get started. These are being held from 6.30 to 8.30pm on Tuesdays and from 9.30 to 11.30am on Wednesdays at the Methodist Church in Orrell Lane.

For more information call Cynthia on 01704 894914 or 895247.

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NHS commissioning group to host discussion on 'low priority prescribing'

Report by **Henry James**

THE NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is hosting an event to discuss its 'low priority prescribing' proposals and is inviting all interested members of the local community to attend.

In line with many other NHS organisations, both in Lancashire and nationally, the West Lancs CCG proposes to stop the funding of certain types of medicines or treatments that are readily available 'over the counter' in pharmacies or on the shelves in shops and supermarkets.

But before these changes are made, the CCG has been gathering the views of residents to help ensure that the proposals are sound and the new prescribing policies are appropriate; and also to seek out any other information or interventions that may need to be put in place.

The discussion event will be held on Thursday, March 16 from 10am to noon at the JMO Sports Park, Blaguegate Playing Fields, Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale.

The NHS West Lancs CCG is proposing to stop the funding of certain types of medicines

Residents can also share their views by completing an online survey: www.po.st/LowGluten. The survey will close on Friday, March 24 and a feedback report will be published in April.

INTEREST

A spokesperson for NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "There has already been a significant interest in the online survey, but these public consultation events will allow anyone with queries to speak directly with the CCG."

To learn more about the proposals, including precisely which medicines and treatments are being considered and which members of society would be exempt from these proposals, residents are encouraged to visit the CCG's website, www.westlancashireccg.nhs.uk

For any queries about the events, contact the CCG by email at myview@westlancashireccg.nhs.uk, by ringing 01695 588 203 or in writing at NHS West Lancashire CCG, Hilldale, Wigan Road, Ormskirk, L39 2JW.

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Businesses and local groups invited to give their views on council spending

COMMUNITY groups and local businesses in West Lancashire are being invited to have their say about council spending.

West Lancs Council's 2017 Stakeholder Survey offers organisations in the borough the opportunity to make their voices heard and influence decisions by giving their views on where the authority should make reductions in spending or increase income.

The consultation is open to all organisations and businesses and runs until Friday, April 7.

To take part, visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/yourviews.

Leader of the council, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "We encourage community groups, organisations and businesses to take this opportunity to give their views on these important issues.

"We are working in partnership with the West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Services to encourage groups to take part in this important consultation. Hundreds of invitations are being sent out by email to groups in our borough.

Council leader Councillor Ian Moran

"We are working to encourage groups to take part in this important consultation"

"However, I must stress that the consultation is open to all organisations - whether or not you receive an invitation - so please do visit the website to find out how to get involved."

Only one response can be accepted on behalf of each organisation.

If any members of organisations wish to give their views as individual residents they can do so via the Citizen Survey 2017 which is also available on the website, and is open for any resident to complete.

In addition, copies of the Citizen Survey have been sent out to around 4,500 households in the borough.

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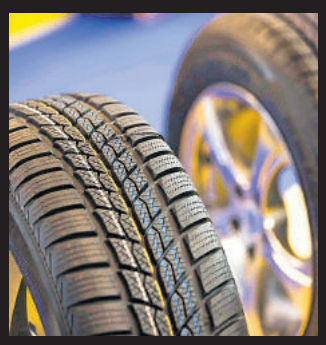

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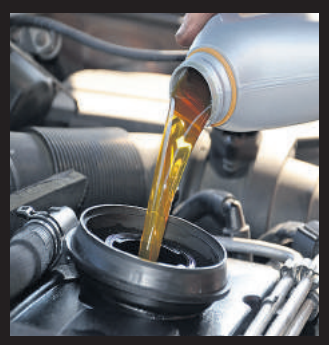

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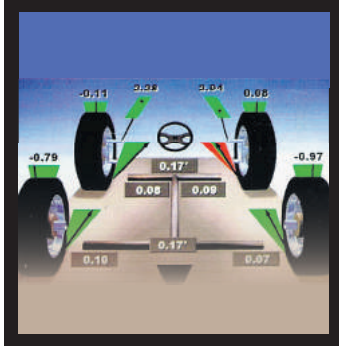

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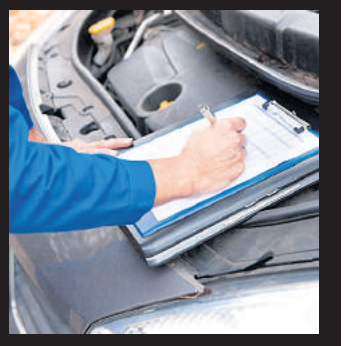

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Avocets return as Spring migration begins at WWT Martin Mere

Spring is in the air at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre with the first 5 avocets returning to the centre on 19 February as part of the spring migration.

The avocets, now currently 44, will remain at the centre until early August, using the reserve as their breeding ground. In the past, numbers have reached 100 birds and it is hoped that this year could bring record numbers. Avocets spend the winter either on the south coast or in Mediterranean countries and they chose to spend the summer in the UK.

Just 10 years ago, avocets were quite rare in this area but WWT Martin Mere has been able to introduce a number of initiatives to help manage the wetlands, ensuring the habitat is perfect for summer wading birds in the hope to raise the number of birds breeding. These initiatives have included the purchasing of rare breed cattle who act like lawn mowers with their selective grazing patterns, hay making in late summer and early autumn once all of the youngsters have hatched and left their nests, and by controlling the water level we can adapt the habitat for the needs of summer and wintering birds.

Centre Manager, Nick Brooks, said: "The fact that we are continuing to raise numbers of these wading birds is a testament to the reserve wardens for their hard work in making the land suitable for waders to breed. Spring and summer is a really nice time at the centre to watch migrating wader birds and their chicks, and we are looking forward to yet another successful breeding season."

The next month is a cross-over of seasons with 1200 Whooper swans still on the reserve up until mid-March as well as spring migrants arriving at the centre offering fantastic photography opportunities for all visitors to enjoy.

In other news at the centre, with a woodcock continuing to show well, 15 Greenland White-fronted geese dropping in and out of the reserve and a male Brambling using the feeding stations from the Janet Kear Hide.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 9.30am to 4.30pm during winter months and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight WWT Wetland Centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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Edge Hill University

Edge Hill shortlisted in five categories of awards scheme ranked by students

EDGE Hill University has been shortlisted in an unprecedented five categories in this year's WhatUni Student Choice Awards - including the prestigious University of the Year title.

Despite facing tough competition from 130 universities, the Ormskirk campus has been shortlisted for university of the year and also in the categories of accommodation, course and lecturers, student support and university facilities.

The awards aim to represent the student voice, giving more than 27,000 students the chance to have their say on universities across the UK.

Liam Owens, director of student recruitment and administration at Edge Hill, said: "We're delighted to be shortlisted in the WhatUni awards and to be one of the very few institutions ranked by students themselves as a potential 'University of the Year'.

"It is fantastic to see how positively our students view the university and the teaching, support and facilities that enable them to achieve their goals.

"Everything we do aims to provide an outstanding, full university experience and these shortlistings show that we are succeeding."

Last year Edge Hill was shortlisted for its top facilities and leapt up the overall table to be named the 15th best university in the UK.

Marcella Collins, managing director UK, of Whatuni.com's parent company, Hotcourses Group, added: "One of the most common criticisms we hear from students is that it's too difficult to navigate the HE landscape, so this has become our driving force.

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The winners will be announced on Thursday, April 6 at a ceremony in London.

You can follow the action on the night with the hashtag #WUSCA.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Using commercial companies to provide clinical services free to patients is not privatisation

I WOULD recommend that Joe Welsh (Letters, February 22) consults the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Clause 1 of which specifically places the following duty on the Secretary of State. It reads:
1. The Secretary of State must continue the promotion in England of a comprehensive health service designed to secure improvement - (a)in the physical and mental health of the people of England, and (b)in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of physical and mental illness.
2. For that purpose, the Secretary of State must exercise the functions conferred by this Act so as to secure that services are provided in accordance with this Act.
3. The Secretary of State retains ministerial responsibility to Parliament for the provision of the health service in England.
4. The services provided as part of the health service in England must be free of charge except in so far as the making and recovery of charges is expressly provided for by or under any enactment, whenever passed.

I realise that the last sentence in 4 allows for future charging, but only after parliamentary debate and scrutiny, and I can't believe any party would bring legislation of this kind before the house.

Private commercial companies may be contracted to provide particular services, but that is not privatisation, simply an efficient use of resources. For over a decade, NHS patients have been treated free of charge in private hospitals where circumstances and urgency dictate.

Why is it less desirable to use a commercial company to provide clinical services, as long as the service is free to users?

George Pratt, Langdale Drive, Burscough

Reasons for failing NHS closer to home

RE: Joe Welsh's letter (Champion, February 22) wake up Joe, the reasons for a failing health service are closer to home than you want to admit.
1. Over-staffing and over-payment to non-medical jobsworths.
2. Obesity, which if not due to a proven medical condition, e.g. thyroid, should be chargeable.
3. Prescriptions for aspirin should be abolished, when it costs 10 gbp per scrip and they cost less than 20p per 30 tabs in local stores.

I have had to make use of the NHS twice in the past three years and on each occasion treatment of my conditions has been excellent by staff who install confidence but have to suffer abuse from the people who seem to have the least wrong with them and moaners who would be up in arms if required to contribute to the treatment.

Joe, please remember if you don't have to pay anything for it you don't value it.

I am an OAP who buys his aspirin at Asda. More should do the same.

Jim Millar, by email

Grateful thanks to brilliant hospital staff

THERE is much said about the state of our local hospitals, so I give you, Ormskirk Hospital.

This hospital is in a league of its own. The staff care about you and for you in your hour of need.

The staff at Ormskirk Hospital have always valued the reputation of their hospital, resulting in their dedication; for them it is not 'just a job'.

Recently I had surgery on my foot at Ormskirk Hospital and was in G Ward for an overnight stay. Mr. Toh, the surgeon, Dr. Ali, the anaesthetist and all the theatre staff were brilliant. The ward nursing, physio and cleaning staff were exceptional.

May I say a huge thank-you to everyone concerned in my treatment.

Mrs Kathleen Banks, Churchtown

...and ambulance team too!

A BIG thank-you to Jim the paramedic and the amazing ambulance service of West Lancs when they attended my partner's mother within five minutes of calling when she fell into a diabetic coma on Wednesday, February 22.

They were truly magnificent!

And thanks to the neighbours for putting up with the blocked road.

Rory Green, Back Lane, Burscough

PICTURE of the week

The annual awakening of the display of flora in Southport's Hesketh Park signals the welcome arrival of spring. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Our country is in danger of being concreted over

WE cannot continue building more houses and roads and follow the path of economic growth.

In the UK, if we continue on this path there will be no space for wildlife or food production as the country will be concreted over.

This nonsense of increasing GDP ought to be abandoned. For example, a serious car crash is wonderful news for increasing GDP. One of the main drivers of environmental destruction is the unsustainable increase in the human population which even environmental organisations fail to address as being too sensitive.

The UK is a massively over-populated country and rather than encouraging people to come to the UK, we should encourage them to leave. A sustainable UK population would be some 20 million rather than the present 65 million.

To achieve this we ought to stop subsidising people to have children and on a global basis, foreign aid ought to only be paid to countries which reduce their population.

Over the last 50 years countries in Africa and the Middle East have experienced unsustainable population growths and they are now exporting their problem to Europe by mass immigration.

J. M. Berry, Aughton

Concerned about 'green space' but not about other people's needs

AFTER reading the Champion's letters page, I couldn't help but write a response to Concerned of Aughton ('We should never stop fighting to preserve our green space', February 22), whose letter has made me so mad.

Does this person, who is so obviously woeful about losing the view out of their rear window, really not consider other people's needs?

I am one of the few residents who was actually born in Aughton more than 55 years ago and I've probably seen 80% of the houses in Aughton built and new families arrive.

Do any of these people think they've ruined Aughton, I wonder?

The concerned resident, I'm guessing, will be amongst these 'newcomers.'

What hypocrisy not to want any other houses to be built, especially as the author states that 'Aughton remains such a highly sought-after area to live and raise our families' - but only for their family it seems, not for anyone else's.

My children, unfortunately, had to move away when they married due to the lack of available housing in the area.

This selfish, self-centred person's letter made it sound like they travel around with a tear in their eye and with psalms playing in the background whilst they gloat at the fact they live here whilst others cannot!

If the writer actually peered through their rose-tinted selfish spectacles, they would see that the actual character of Aughton is being ruined at present with existing normal houses being torn down to be replaced by huge, million-pound monstrosities, squeezed in to their plots within inches of their boundaries. These have no room for greenery or nice gardens, just the obligatory huge gates and two Range Rovers.

It seems to me the writer of that letter is so concerned with their own well-being that they are not in the least concerned with the needs of others or to see what is actually happening under their noses.

A. Crossley, Aughton, by email

New housing is far more needed in Aughton than views over carrot fields

I COULDN'T help but chuckle when I read the last two misguided nimby-ish letters in the Champion (February 22) regarding Parrs Lane.

The first talks about infrastructure and flood risk to the Alt if this development goes ahead. Does Mr Lennon think it rains more over new houses than on old carrot fields?

I say carrots because the unrepresentative Aughton Residents Group thought carrots for Aldi more important than new homes.

The second letter from 'Concerned of Aughton' waffles on about 'our green space'. I take it he/she will be really upset if they cannot squint through an 8ft hedge at a field of someone else's carrots?

This is not park land or public amenity open space land we are talking about. This is land that is almost completely boxed in by existing houses and hedged in on the rest. Land removed from the green belt for building use by the same council he/she now praises for wasting a huge amount of our money trying to delay the inevitable building start date on for some reason.

The same council is now asking local land owners to put forward other local land for green belt release because they are so behind with their building programme.

As for 'affordable homes', there is a national minimum requirement for every site to deliver its share of this much-needed asset (far more needed than a few carrots or some lost view).

It will be up to the council to ensure its own policies are enforced to provide this much-needed provision, something they seem not to want to do.

Whatever their deluded reasoning, the truth is Aughton/Ormskirk needs housing, which will help to bolster the dying Ormskirk town centre as has been pointed out.

Mr A. Berry, by email

Borough set to fly the flag for Commonwealth Day

ARMED forces veterans and local school pupils will help West Lancashire Borough Council to raise the Commonwealth Flag at a special ceremony next week to mark Commonwealth Day.

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage, and other civic dignitaries will be joined for the event by veterans, children, parents and teachers outside the council offices in Derby Street, Ormskirk at 10am on Monday (March 13).

Messages from the Commonwealth Secretary-General will be read out and the mayor will also address those present. A specially-written Commonwealth Affirmation will be read before the flag is raised.

Cllr. Savage said: "I am really proud that West Lancashire will be joining people across the world in raising the Commonwealth Flag."

This year's Commonwealth Flag raising event builds on successful events in 2014, 2015 and 2016 and will see more than 850 other flags raised in locations throughout the UK, UK Overseas Territories and Commonwealth countries.

Commonwealth Day enables participants to show appreciation for the values the Commonwealth upholds, and the opportunities offered for friendship and co-operation with fellow Commonwealth citizens around the world, young and old.

The Commonwealth Flag will be raised outside the council's Ormskirk offices

Charity ball date

THE Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Liz Savage, will attend a charity ball hosted by the Mayor of Cheshire East at Nantwich Civic Hall on Friday (March 10).

Hospital stages fashion show in aid of hospice

MEDICAL staff at Renacres private hospital in Halsall are hosting a charity fashion show tonight (Wednesday, March 8) in aid of Queenscourt Hospice.

Now in its fourth year, Fashion for Compassion 2017 will be held at Hurlston Hall Golf & Country Club, Ormskirk and will showcase designer wear from MUSE and Busy Body's lingerie specialists.

Tickets, priced £25, are still available. All guests will receive wine on arrival, plus canapés, cupcakes and a goodie bag; and £3,000 worth of luxury raffle prizes are up for grabs.

Organiser, GP liaison officer at Renacres Hospital, Wendy Williams, said: "We are delighted to be holding our fourth charity fashion show. Previously, Fashion for Compassion has supported Queenscourt Hospice, the North West Air Ambulance and Southport Lifeboat.

"The hospital's nominated charity for 2017 is Queenscourt Hospice again so we are really happy to be raising money once more for such a great cause. Please come and support your local charity by joining us for an evening of live entertainment and a fun-filled fashion show."

Fundraising manager at Queenscourt, Carolyn Gorman, said "As an independent charity we rely on the generous support of local people and businesses to keep our services available to those who need them completely free of charge.

"In 2016 Queenscourt provided vital care to more than 750 local patients affected by life-limiting illnesses.

"Without businesses like Renacres Hospital offering their support, we simply couldn't continue to provide this care."

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Commissioner's warning over 'unprecedented demand' on force

LANCASHIRE Police were called out 13% more often than other forces, according to figures released by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

And although inspectors have once again given the force a 'good' report for effectiveness at tackling crime and keeping people safe, the county's police and crime commissioner says he doesn't know how long they can maintain that level given 'unprecedented demand' and budget restraints.

Statistics issued by HMIC showed that Lancashire Police were called 130 more times per 1,000 residents than the average last year. In the six months from May to November 2016, calls to Lancashire Police peaked at 20% higher than the year before and 999 calls averaged more than 20,000 a month.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, said: "Since 2010, we have had to make over £76 million in savings with around £15m more to be made by 2020. This has meant losing over 800 officers and 450 staff roles.

"This is another warning from national inspectors about the pressures that this unprecedented demand is placing on the police.

"People in Lancashire can have real confidence in the force and the work of officers and we are continually looking to improve. However, if ministers continue to cut our resources against the backdrop of a growing and increasingly complex workload, I don't know how long we will be able to maintain this level of service."

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OLD BED RECYCLING SERVICE

Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw congratulates new Chief Constable Andy Rhodes

Deputy set to become county's new Chief Constable

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

ANDY Rhodes is set to be Lancashire Constabulary's new Chief Constable when Steve Finnigan steps down this summer.

The current deputy chief will take up his new role upon Mr Finnigan's retirement in June, subject to a confirmation hearing by the Police and Crime Panel later this month.

He was appointed following a two-day interview process supported by the College of Policing.

Mr Rhodes began his policing career in Lancashire in 1991, rising to Divisional Commander East in 2006 and served as Assistant Chief Constable before being appointed Deputy in 2014.

He said: "The process over the two days was extremely tense, and quite rightly so. This is the proudest moment of my career. It's a challenging and exciting role and I can't wait to get started."

Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, said he was delighted with the appointment and was looking forward to working with the new chief to deliver his new Police and Crime Plan.

He said:"Andy brings a wealth of experience to the role. Lancashire is consistently one of the highest-performing police forces in the country and I am confident the new Chief Constable will continue to maintain that position.

"It's an honour and a privilege as Police and Crime Commissioner to be able to appoint the Chief Constable and is one of the biggest decisions I will make.

"Lancashire continues to face significant challenges brought about by the changing nature of crime, increased demand and decreasing budgets, and I am looking forward to working together with Andy in the years ahead."

"This is the proudest moment of my career. It's a challenging and exciting role and I can't wait to get started"

County council defends decision on exploration rig

LANCASHIRE County Council chiefs have responded to criticism from an environmental charity after they passed amended applications to increase the permitted noise levels and height of a shale gas exploration well rig in Becconsall.

Helen Rimmer, North West campaign organiser for Friends of the Earth, criticised the county council's development control committee for passing oil and gas exploration company Cuadrilla's amended applications for the plugging, abandonment and restoration of the shale gas exploration well on March 1.

However, a spokesperson for the authority said that the amended applications comply with planning policy and that there will now be no overnight work carried out - which they believe is a "positive improvement."

Helen Rimmer said: "Drilling should never have been permitted at the site in the first place, which is in green belt and close to the Ribble Estuary, an internationally important habitat for wildlife.

"Cuadrilla say they are unable to abandon and restore the site without significantly increasing the height of the rig used and the noise at the site. Whilst we want to see the site restored, it is very concerning that the safeguards placed on Cuadrilla's operations, to protect the local environment and residents, are so easily altered at their convenience and without proper assessments. Councillors were clearly unhappy to be put in this position by Cuadrilla, and it does not bode well for their ongoing operations in Lancashire."

The exploration well at Becconsall

A spokesman for Lancashire County Council said: "The development control committee considered two separate applications to vary planning conditions which had previously been agreed regarding the abandonment and restoration of a well in Becconsall.

"These applications sought to increase the height of a rig to be used for the plugging and abandonment of the well, and vary a condition regarding permitted noise limits, and how these are monitored.

"The applications were fully assessed and found to comply with planning legislation and policy. The proposals are no different in working methods and noise potential to what was previously agreed, and the rig will only be used for five weeks. Overall, the restoration work will be complete in 19 weeks or less.

"Importantly, there will be no working at night which could have been carried out under the previous permission and which is a positive improvement. The committee accepted officer recommendations to approve the variations, which will permit the applicant to return the land to agricultural use this summer."

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More carers wanted for county council's 'outstanding' Shared Lives service

Search launched for people who could offer a home to an adult living with a disability

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE County Council has launched a search for people who could offer a 'family' home to an adult living with a disability and unable to live independently.

The county's Shared Lives service is the largest in the country supporting 377 people in 288 households, with 227 of those receiving long-term care. It was recently recognised as 'outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The Shared Lives concept is similar to foster care, with the aim of making a real difference to the lives of adults who need extra support.

Carers work from their own homes to provide short-term respite or long-term live-in arrangements for adults who have social care needs.

Lancashire's service supports 11% of the population of adults with a learning disability in the county and they are looking to expand the number of active carers who can offer long-term placements across the county.

County Councillor Tony Martin, the authority's cabinet member for adult and community services, said: "We want to make our outstanding Shared Lives service available to more people and you could help us by becoming a Shared Lives carer.

"We're especially looking for people who have a spare room in their home and can offer longer term care to support adults with a learning disability.

TRAINING

"Our carers come from all types of backgrounds and do a superb job. They are friendly, have lots of enthusiasm for the people they look after and find it very rewarding.

"People you support could come from any background and everyone requires a different level of care.

"What is most important for us is making a match between the person needing support and the Shared Lives carer.

"If you are interested in becoming a carer, our friendly team will support you every step of the way. You will receive full training, regular support and a monthly financial allowance."

Shared Lives has been a huge success nationally and people being supported have said they feel more settled, valued and make friends more easily than with traditional types of care.

Stuart and Pauline have been Shared Lives carers in Lancashire for more than 10 years. They currently support Claire and Sarah who live with them as long-term placements.

Pauline says: "Being a Shared Lives carer is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done.

"We wanted Sarah and Claire to be as independent as possible. We encourage them to take responsibility for keeping their own bedrooms tidy and to help around the house.

"They love to get involved with the cooking and they find baking especially rewarding as they love to see an end product which they have created themselves.

"Both Sarah and Claire have become part of our family; it's a wonderful feeling knowing that I've made a big difference to someone's life."

● *To find out more about Lancashire County Council's Shared Lives scheme or to enquire about becoming a carer go www.lancashire.gov.uk/sharedlives or email sharedlives@lancashire.gov.uk.*

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88 per cent of county pupils get places at first preference secondary school

MORE than 98% of pupils in Lancashire will be attending one of their preferred schools or academies this September, according to the county education bosses.

Figures for secondary school admissions in the county show that 88.4% will get their first preference, 7.4% will go to schools which were their second, while 2.4% will attend their third preference school.1.8% have been allocated a place at other schools.

And the authority says the numbers of those receiving preferred places is likely to rise as appeals are heard and other adjustments are made.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "Waiting to find out which secondary school you've been allocated can be an anxious time, for both parents and children. I have first-hand experience of this, so I know exactly how parents feel at this time.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson

"I'm pleased to know that 98.2% will be getting one of their three preferences and 88.4% have their first preference. Importantly, every pupil whose application was received on time has now been allocated a secondary school place.

"School places are allocated fairly and objectively, and every application is agreed upon using the criteria which have been agreed for that school.

"Our admissions team do a good job advising parents how to use their preferences wisely and, what to do if they are unhappy with the place they've got

"There's still a lot of movement with the allocation of school places between now and September."

This year 95% of parents overall chose to complete their application online.

Parents will receive details about who to contact for advice and information on school admissions and appeals in the offer letter or email they receive.

To appeal the decision for your child, email pupilaccess.southadmissions@lancashire.gov.uk

Appeals are heard locally and will take place during May and June.

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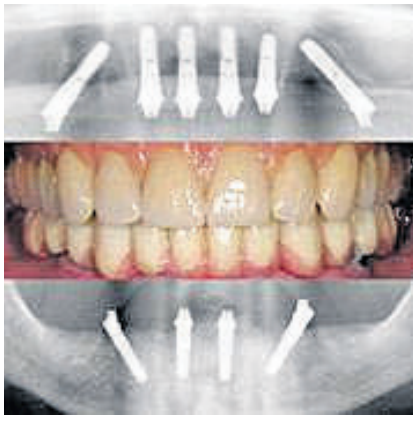

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The kids will love the FREE "It's a knockout" Obstacle Course for all ages, and face painting will be offered to all the young ones too! You will also be able to see the full amazing 2017 range of Compass caravans, and step inside the demo models on site from Casita, Capiro & Camino.

A special discount of £500 will be given or a free motor mover on all caravans sold at the event weekend.

And that's not all. From a comprehensive range of micro caravans to specialist equipment, hugely discounted branded clothing, accessories, awnings as well as BBQ's, greeting cards and handbags all at unbelievable prices, the weekend promises to be an exciting one for all ages!

And if you are feeling peckish there's the "Potting Shed Café" with its full menu and specials of the day, and the fabulous "Traditional Sweet shop" on site with lots of treats and special offer of real dairy ice cream in a cone from £1.00.

This Family fun weekend is a rare opportunity to explore the fantastic range Red Lion Caravan Centre can offer and will delight adults and children alike. Don't miss it! Open 9-5 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday

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Council awards grants totalling £136,000 to voluntary organisations

SEVEN community organisations in West Lancashire have been awarded grants totalling more than £136,000 by the borough council.

The authority approved funding in its 2017/18 budget to provide financial support to voluntary groups that provide vital services to the community.

Applications were invited from groups and judged by an elected-member working group at the council.

The largest sum was awarded to Citizens Advice Lancashire West, allocated £43,160 to continue to provide free, confidential, impartial and independent advice and information.

West Lancashire CVS, which provides funding advice, training and information for voluntary and community groups, has been awarded £29,250.

The West Lancashire Dial A Ride Association, a community transport service for borough residents, was awarded £25,720; and West Lancs ARK, which assists and supports ex offenders, recovering alcoholics and homeless people to find training, employment and funding, received £13,000.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen

Family support group Home-start Central Lancs will receive £11,270; Disability Advice West Lancs, a free and confidential specialist information and advice service for the disabled and carers, has been awarded a grant of £8,510; and Bereavement Counselling Services, which provides support to anyone who is affected as a result of loss, was given £5,330.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, the council's portfolio holder with responsibility for grants to voluntary and community organisations, said: "The council is very aware of the huge and positive impact these organisations have on the community and we are delighted to give them some financial backing."

'Influential' speakers at Edge Hill

EDGE Hill University is set to play host to a number of 'influential activists' with a series of guest seminars.

Renowned human rights campaigner, Peter Tatchell, who was once arrested by the East Germany secret police, the Stasi, will give a talk today (Wednesday, March 8) from 5 to 7pm.

Also in the pipleline are visits by Hassan Mahamdallie, director of the Muslim Institute on Wednesday April 5, and Pragna Patel, founder of 'Southall Black Sisters', a landmark organisation in the history of black and Asian women, who is scheduled to speak on Wednesday, May 3.

Looking further ahead, on Wednesday, June 7, Cathie Lloyd, head of research at the Commission for Racial Equality and former vice-president of the Movement against Racism and For Friendship between Peoples, will give a talk entitled 'Memoirs of a Keyboard Warrior' from 1 to 2pm.

The seminars are free and open to all and attendees can ask questions at the end of each discussion.

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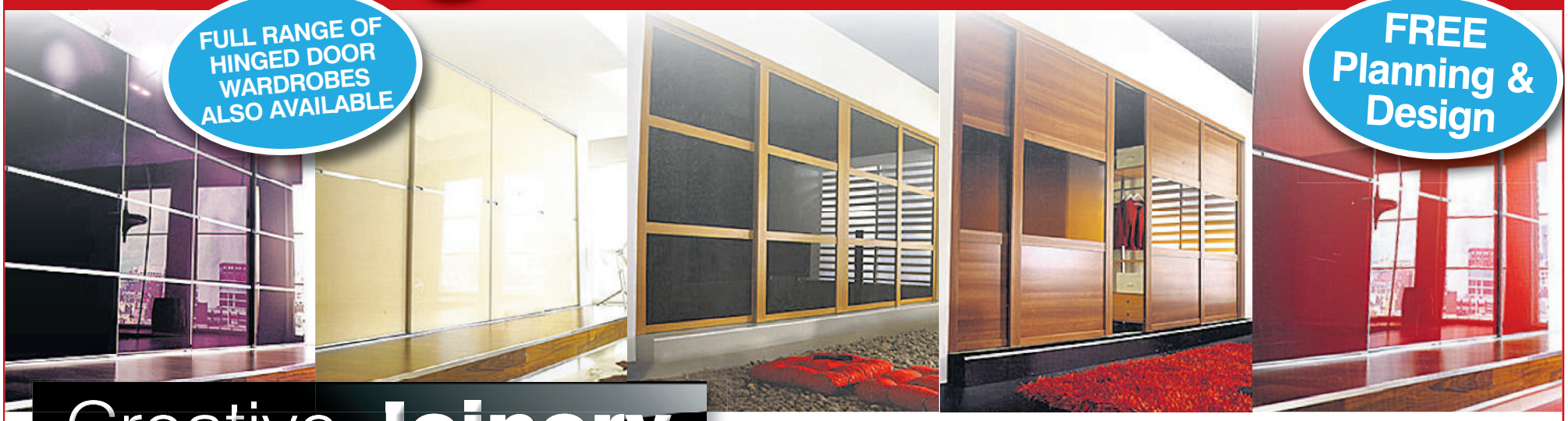

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Seeing red over green bin charge

Independents say 'unnecessary' measure should have been scrapped

A LEADING member of independent political group, Our West Lancashire, claims that instead of introducing the controversial £30 annual green bin charge, due to start in June, West Lancs Council should have scrapped the idea.

Report by **Henry James**

However, the authority has defended the charge as part of its efforts to save £1.44 in the 2017/18 budget.

Our West Lancashire's representative for Derby ward, Councillor Adrian Owens, pointed out that the council has already underspent by £310,000 in the current financial year and was unlikely to exceed that figure and therefore that the green bin charge, estimated to raise £500,000, was "unneccessary".

Cllr. Owens who was the council's finance portfolio holder for six years, said: "We said last year that this charge was financially unnecessary and the financial situation underlines that. With the underspend and other changes, such as addressing the loss in building control and reducing councillor allowances to the Lancashire average, achieving a workable budget without imposing this hugely unpopular charge was straightforward."

Last year, Our West Lancashire raised a 960-strong petition signed by residents from every ward of the borough against the proposed £30 bin charge.

And the group says the evidence from Pendle, which was the first Lancashire council to introduce a green bin charge in 2014, gives even more cause for concern.

Cllr Owens added: "Composting rates from green waste collected have dropped by 32% in Pendle while the weight of general waste collected has increased. This must then be sorted at an extra cost to the taxpayer.

"Equally concerning, but not a surprise, is that it is proposed to increase the green bin charge next year in Pendle by more than 10%.

"Where Pendle led in 2014, we in West Lancashire are following in 2017 and we shouldn't."

However, a borough council spokesman responded: "The council needed to save around £1.44m in its 2017/18 budget. A wide range of measures that will not impact on residents were approved by the authority in the summer of 2016 to start addressing this situation, but more still needed to be done.

"It is also estimated that we will then need to make additional savings of around £2m per year from 2018/19 onwards.

"Next year's budget has been set in the context of these financial challenges and will maintain front-line services with targeted investment in a number of key areas.

"In order to do this the council needed to make some tough decisions, and a proposal to introduce charging for the collection of garden waste was approved in October 2016.

"When the charge is introduced later this year, residents will be able to choose whether or not they wish to use the council's garden waste service. If they do not wish to pay the charge, they do not have to use our service and can dispose of their garden waste by other appropriate and legal means, such as composting.

"Each household that pays the charge will have its garden waste bin labelled so our collection teams will know it is to be emptied.

"Full information about the green bin collection charge will be provided to residents as soon as details are available. A number of details are already on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/refuse.

Pendle Council introduced its green waste charge in 2014. The authority has told us that it only had a small increase in the amount of household waste it has collected over the last two years and this is unrelated to the green waste charge."

Hotel group bid to demolish former residence

PROPOSALS to demolish a small former residence next to the Premier Inn Hotel and Morris Dancers pub in Scarisbrick have been submitted to West Lancs Council.

Applicant, Premier Inn Hotels Ltd., are also seeking to confirm if prior approval is required for the method of demolition and restoration of the building with adjoining workshop/garage in Southport Road.

Information submitted in support of the application states that the building is in a poor state of repair and would be costly to refurbish and its removal would improve the appearance of the site, improve visibility and enhance highway safety.

Premier Inn Ltd want to demolish the residence next door to hotel in Scarisbrick

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County council backs campaign to encourage members of LGBT community to consider fostering or adoption

LANCASHIRE County Council chiefs are urging people from the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) community to consider fostering or adoption.

The authority is backing a week-long campaign by New Family Social, the network for LGBT adoptive and foster families.

LGBT Adoption and Fostering Week, which runs until Sunday, March 12, aims to encourage people from the LGBT community to consider fostering or adoption.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We're fortunate in Lancashire to have a number of same-sex couples who are providing stable and loving homes for children and young people who cannot live with their own families.

Caring

"We always need more foster carers and adoptive parents from all walks of life, and I want to remind people that we welcome applications from people of all ages, single, married, cohabiting, in same-sex relationships, with or without their own children, working or not.

"What the children and young people need most of all is to be with people who have a caring nature, who enjoy being with children and have a determination to see it through. Our children need people to stand by them.

"To be considered as adoptive parents, you need to be over 21 and living in or close to Lancashire."

To find out more about fostering or adoption, call 0300 123 6723.

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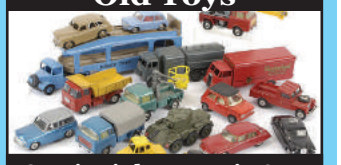
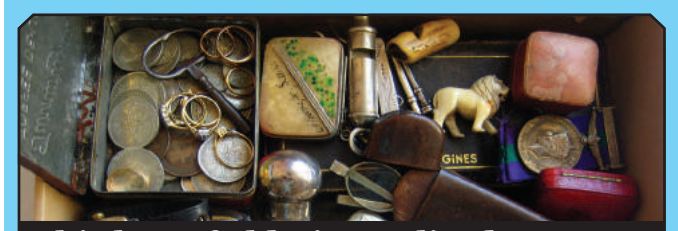


Corgi, Dinky or Train Sets



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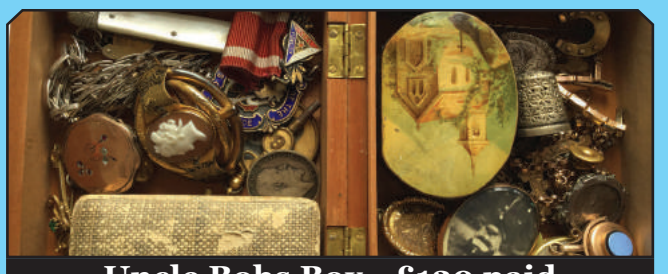
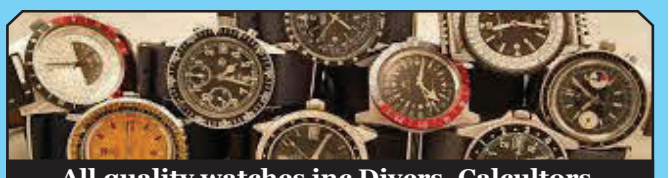


Uncle Bobs Box - £120 paid

"We sold the Jewellery we inherited from Dads sister and were able to contribute to our Grandsons University Fees"



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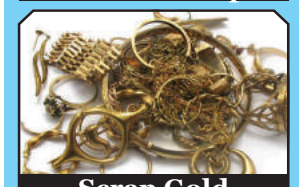

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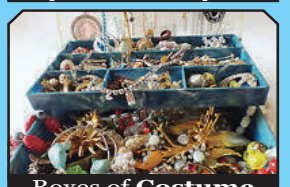

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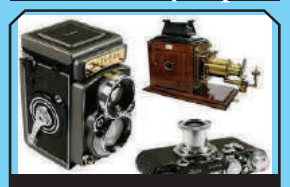

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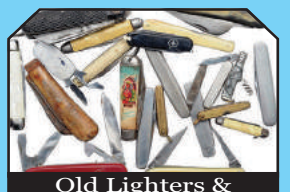

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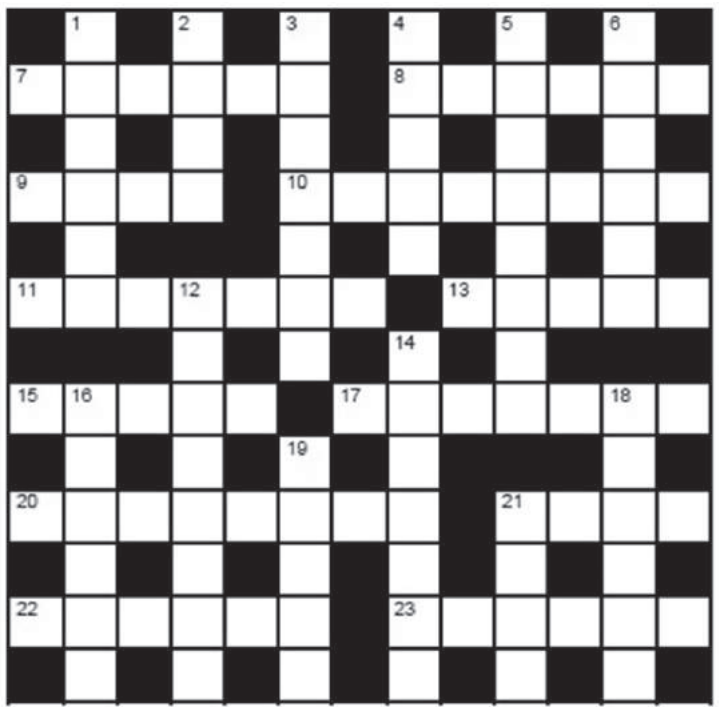

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Hooray. 8 Avoids. 9 Beef. 10 Hesitant. 11 Aspirin. 13 Anvil. 15 Filly. 16 Shut-eye. 18 Mudguard. 19 Loud. 21 Turtle. 22 Uneven.

Down: 1 Bole. 2 Traffic lights. 3 Typhoid. 4 Manse. 5 Fortune teller. 6 Identify. 12 Stimulus. 14 Rhodium. 17 Fated. 20 User.

ACROSS

7. Comedian's straight man (6)
8. Movable indicator on a computer screen (6)
9. A micro-organism, especially one which causes disease (4)
10. Craft using long, eyeless needles to make garments by looping and entwining wool (8)
11. Low upholstered seat without a back or arms (7)
13. Fret, be concerned (5)
15. Entertain, make laugh (5)
17. Price of a journey by plane (7)
20. Member of an ancient Jewish sect (8)
21. Sum of money that's owed (4)
22. Writing desk with drawers (6)
23. Formal assessment (6)

DOWN

1. Public road in a city, town or village (6)
2. Travel aimlessly (4)
3. Not Saturday or Sunday (7)
4. Unpleasantly bitter (5)
5. Vehicle which has been so badly damaged it can't be repaired (5-3)
6. Place or angle where two sides or edges meet (6)
12. Person who watches or notices something (8)
14. Weapon such as a pistol or sword (7)
16. The keeper or driver of an elephant, especially in India (6)
18. Thief, particularly one who threatens violence (6)
19. Important topic or problem for debate or discussion (5)
21. Celebrated female opera singer (4)

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Hospital to host information and awareness stand to highlight World Kidney Day

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust is celebrating World Kidney Day by hosting an information and awareness stand at Southport Hospital tomorrow (Thursday, March 9).

The stand is being hosted by Dr Raza and Dr Wong from the trust's Nephrology (kidney) department along with the Southport Kidney Fund, who provide assistance to all patients with kidney failure within Southport.

The theme of this year's stand is kidney disease and obesity.

Ann Glover, chairperson of Southport Kidney Fund, said: "We decided to do our bit for World Kidney Day because kidney failure is life-changing for both the patient and those around them.

Ann Glover

"Southport Kidney Fund is a charity run by patients and carers for other local patients, adults and children, who are pre-dialysis, on dialysis or transplanted.

"I was on dialysis for nearly seven years whilst waiting for a transplant.

"Then 11 years ago my son gave me a kidney for which I can never repay him. The transplant has freed me from dialysis and prolonged my life, but I still have a lot of health difficulties. Life is never the same after kidney failure.

"We need to raise awareness of this life-threatening problem."

Dr Hasnain Raza, consultant physician and nephrologist at the trust, added: "Kidney disease is common, affecting more than three million people in the UK. However, it can go undetected as people often have no symptoms.

"People with high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, who are overweight or have a family history of kidney disease and those from certain ethnic groups, have a higher risk of developing kidney disease.

"The good news is that depending on the problem, early detection, changes in lifestyle (such as taking more exercise) and a healthy diet can often slow down the progression of the disease, delaying the possible need for dialysis or transplantation."

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Chance to nominate a favourite building for West Lancs design awards

DO you have a favourite building or development which you feel is a real asset to the area?

If so, here's your chance to nominate it for West Lancashire Borough Council's annual design awards.

Councillor John Hodson

The awards aim to acknowledge and promote the importance of good-quality development and building design and show how it can greatly improve the local environment.

Nominations for this year's awards are being sought now.

Judging will be in five categories -new residential developments; the conversion of existing buildings; commercial developments; sustainable building design; and landscaping proposals.

Awards will be given for designs which contribute to the overall quality of the borough and will focus on community, economic and environmental regeneration and the use of sustainable building techniques.

Designs must have been completed after June 2015 to be eligible for entry.

Councillor John Hodson, West Lancs Council's cabinet member for planning, said: "It is important to recognise and reward the best new developments. I encourage people to nominate the projects they feel have enhanced the area they live in.

"The council is committed to encouraging good design throughout the borough and the awards are a great way to celebrate distinctive, high-quality development here in West Lancashire.

"The award scheme, which has been running since 1989, highlights the council's wish to work in partnership with architects, developers, owners and other agencies involved in planning to improve our built environment and the quality of life for all the residents of West Lancashire."

People can nominate online or download the forms by visiting www.westlancs.gov.uk/design

Nomination forms are also available from local libraries, the customer service points in Derby Street, Ormskirk, and The Concourse, Skelmersdale, or by emailing Ian Bond, heritage and environment manager, at ian.bond@westlancs.gov.uk or calling 01695 585167.

Nominations must be submitted by 5pm on Friday, May 12.

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WITH QUALITY METAL ACTION
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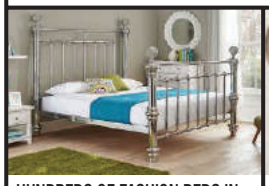
NOW £349 TO CLEAR !!

METAL TUBULAR BUNK BEDS
IN SILVER WITH MATTRESSES
WAS £499 REDUCED TO £399
NOW £199 TO CLEAR !!



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From Little Acorns ...

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Your guide to selecting **Early Education** and **Child Care** providers

One of the biggest issues facing our children today is the lack of outdoor play and physical exercise - children nowadays have limited opportunity to get outside and have fun in the real world!

Some of the statistics are frightening. A report by the National Trust said that the majority of children play outside less than one hour a day. That's almost a third of the time we spent outdoors 30 years ago when we were children!

This lack of outdoor activity means children concentrate less, become more unruly, are less able to mix and socialise, are less imaginative and then there's the rise in obesity.

For many, the rise in 'screen time' is the biggest concern.

Researchers are now looking at the long term effect of too much television, time spent on mobile devices and playing computer games.

They talk of the 're-wiring of the mind' and danger to young brains. Rather than using their senses to build dens, interact, build social skills and work in teams, while exploring and learning, children are becoming sponges to a one-way traffic of entertainment.

So how can we do our best to foster an attitude of discovery, creativity and good, old fashioned outdoor play from an early age?

Anyone who has taken their child camping will appreciate that things haven't changed that much.

Children love playing outdoors, but we need to make sure it happens. One increasingly popular idea is Forest School. In Scandinavia the motto is simple: There's no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothes.

Although it may be colder than it is in our country, the Scandinavians have never let that get in the way.

They cycle in the snow, they play outside in the rain, they camp in the cold, they build campfires no matter what the season.

The idea of Forest School began in the 1950s in Sweden, but it is now thankfully being appreciated in the UK. It focuses on the natural world, exploring and observing our environment, working in teams to move logs, make dens and take managed risks.

Rather than mollycoddling, this is about taking responsibility, building confidence, investigating our limits, appreciating life and enjoying the outdoors.

Armed with wellies, waterproofs and snacks, children can spend two or three hours in the woods,they hang hammocks, they create imaginary worlds, they cook s'mores, they do treasure hunts, they read books and make up stories in circles.

And they always, always love it.

St James' Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Ashurst Road, Skelmersdale. WN8 6TN. Tel: 01695 728989
Headteacher: Mr D. Iliff www.st-james-pri.lancs.sch.uk

Children leave St James with results 29% above national average

"St James' is an outstanding school." (Liverpool Archdiocese inspection November 2013)

Before school "Rise & Shine Breakfast Club"
Little Angels pre-school group
Tuesday & Thursday
9:00-10:30am

Nursery times (Monday–Thursday):
8:30am - 11:30am
Lunch 11.30 - 12.15pm
and 12.15 - 3.15pm

Nursery times (Friday):
8:30am - 11:30am

Jigsaw Playgroup @ Burscough C.C.L

Orrell Lane, Burscough, L40 OSG

A family environment away from home...

Our recent OFSTED rated us 'Good'

"Children are cared for in a welcoming environment and demonstrate high levels of self-esteem"

"Children are motivated and engaged in their learning. They choose what they want to play with and are encouraged to explore and use their own ideas to extend their learning"

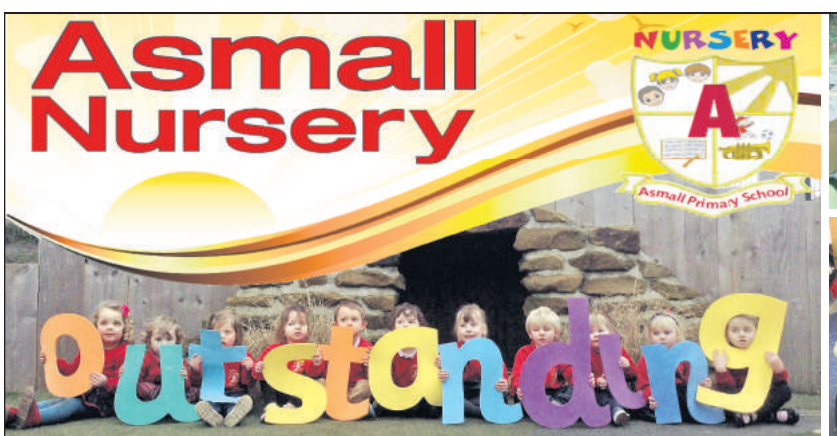
New Opening Hours 7.30am-6.00pm

Places available for children aged 2-4
Funded places also available

For more information call 01704 896612
Email jigsawburscough@communityfutures.org.uk
Jigsaw Playgroup Burscough

Charity No. 702233
Company No. 333713

Asmall Nursery



ENROLLING NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

What we offer:

- Private Nursery sharing the site of Asmall Primary School
- Open term time only from 8am- 5.45pm (sessional or full day care)
- Ages 12 months to 5 years.
- Well qualified and experienced staff.
- Purpose built Outdoor Play Area
- Before and After School Club
- Childcare Vouchers accepted
- Registered Local Authority Provider for Free Early Years
- Education for 2 and 3 year olds.

Toddler Group
Come and join our toddler group in the school hall, Wednesday mornings 10am-11.30am.

Step Outside

Asmall Primary School, Tennyson Drive, Ormskirk, L39 3PJ
01695 576654 admin@asmall.lancs.sch.uk

Ofsted Outstanding Early years provider 2015|2016

Thomas the Martyr C E Primary School Nursery

Growing and Achieving Together

FREE MORNING OR AFTERNOON SESSIONS FOR ALL 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS

We offer:

- Highly qualified staff and well resourced facilities
- Close links with our reception class
- An open door policy working closely with parents and carers
- Breakfast Club from 7.45am
- After School Club to 5.30pm
- All day provision for 3 and 4 year olds also available

Two year old provision 9-12 Mon to Fri … free places for eligible parents

OFSTED SAID:

"Teaching in the Early Years Foundation Stage is outstanding. Excellent planning, exciting topics that interest the children and exemplary records which are shared regularly with parents extend children's reading, writing and mathematical skills very well."

Step into Quality

TAKE A TOUR OF OUR SCHOOL

CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

St Thomas the Martyr C E Primary School

Highgate Road, Up Holland, Lancashire WN8 0HX

Tel: 01695 622970 • www.stthomasthemartyr.org

Nurturing • Welcoming • Enriching • High Quality Care & Education

Cobbs Brow

Outstanding Early Years Provider: Ofsted June 2015

COBBS BROW PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION

Breakfast Club
7.50am to 8.55am

Tiny Acorns 2-3yr olds Nursery
A.M. session 8.50am to 11.50am
P.M. session 12.20pm to 3.20pm
Wrap Around
11.50am to 12.20pm

Little Acorns 3-4yr olds
A.M Session 8.50am to 11.50am
P.M Session 12.20pm to 3.20pm
*We can also offer wrap around for Nurseries between 11.50am & 12.20pm

Afterschool Club
3.10pm - closes at 6pm

Cobbs Brow School

Manfield Ashurst, Skelmersdale WN8 6SU

Telephone: 01695 720 632 Website: www.cobbsbrow.lancsngfl.ac.uk

Little Digmoor Primary School

NOW OFFERING

FREE ALL DAY NURSERY PROVISION FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS

8:50am - 3:15pm
5 days a week

In our fully equipped Foundation Stage Unit run by an experienced Early Years TEACHER.

Our recent OFSTED report stated that:

"In the Early Years Foundation Stage, knowledgeable and well-planned teaching provides children with a good range of indoor and outdoor activities that stimulate children's learning and gets them off to a good start to their time in school. The majority of pupils are now making rapid progress in reading, writing and mathematics."

Parents say

"I think the school is doing a fantastic job"
"My child is happy and has made loads of progress since they have been in the school"

And most importantly pupils say:

"I like school because I have lots of friends to play with"
"I love the sand pit"

Please come and see us in action.

Contact us for more information or to arrange a visit

01695 724539

www.littledigmoor.lancs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr Dave Paton

Discovery Vine Childcare

Lordsgate Township Pre-School Nursery

Lordsgate Drive, Burscough L40 7RS

Our highly qualified, knowledgeable Early Years Practitioners offer Full Time or Sessional Care and Education during term time.

We accept the Early Years Free Entitlement Grant offering up to 30 free hours a week from September 2017

We have excellent indoor and outdoor facilities and are working towards Forest School Status- September 2017

To book a visit or for more information call:

01704 897270

www.discoveryvine.co.uk

Trinity Sunflower Nursery

Offers Teacher-led quality Early Years Education for 3-4year olds.

Ofsted: October 2015 – Early Years provision is Outstanding.

Teaching is highly effective. 'Children learn in a safe environment and are very well cared for and supported by adults'.

Flexible sessions available over and above the free 15 hours entitlement we also offer a lunch club.

Breakfast club is available from 8am and after school club runs from 3:15pm to 5:15pm

Places now available for 3-year-olds from April.

Contact us for more information or to arrange a visit:
Trinity CE/Methodist Primary School with The Sunflower Nursery, Kiln Lane, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 8PW

Tel: 01695-723878 Email : bursar@trinity.lancs.sch.uk Website : www.trinity.lancs.sch.uk

Parbold Douglas Nursery Ltd

Funded places available from aged 2
Outdoor Provision
Free hot lunch

"We are more than pleased with all aspects of nursery life"

"Nurturing ethos, varied and additional activities offered (multisports/music)"

Open 51 weeks of the year
Mon-Fri:
7.45am-6pm

Please come and visit!

Located within Parbold Douglas C of E Academy

01257 462199

Nursery@pda.lancs.sch.uk

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Little Doves Nursery

http://www.sfoa.lancs.sch.uk

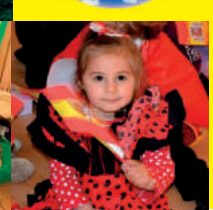
Lancashire Awarded Quality Mark

Just a reminder that our AWARD WINNING NURSERY is

NOW OPEN

to 2 year olds.
Paid and extra morning or afternoon sessions available at
£10 per 3hr session (lunch included)

15hrs Funded Provision for eligible families



- ✓ Nuturing child centered approach to learning
- ✓ Wonderful outdoor environment
- ✓ 15 Hours free provision
- ✓ Flexible arrangements for parents who require more childcare
- ✓ A designated key worker for every child

"Children make good progress and achieve well in Nursery and Reception, they are confident learners, well prepared for the KS1 Curriculum."

Ofsted 2015

Give your child a flying start

Call 01695 558560 to make an appointment to visit, or e-mail:bursar@sfoa.lancs.sch.uk

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THE NORTHWEST'S TRUSTED BUSINESS FINDER

Which childcare is best for you?

ADVERTISING FEATURE

With so many parents both working full time these days the issue of childcare is a major one.

There are several options available but choosing the right one for your family can sometimes be a difficult task. Before you make a decision ...

- Give yourself plenty of time to choose. Holiday play schemes and other seasonal childcare service can booked up well in advance.
- Make appointments to visit two or three providers to compare what's on offer. This will allow you to look at the services available and chat to the staff.
- Always consider your child in your decision, even if they are far too young to make a choice themselves. Where do you think they would prefer?
- Ask other parents for their suggestions and recommendations.
- Check opening times, holiday dates and, most importantly, costs.

PLACES AVAILABLE

IN OUR OUTSTANDING NURSERY

Purpose built Nursery for 0-5 years

- FREE* places for over 2's
- Places also available for babies and toddlers
- Open 50 weeks of the year
- Opening hours 8am-6pm
- Healthy Menu
- Outdoor covered play area
- Based in Skelmersdale
- Community nursery open to all.

Call: 01695 52559/52300
email: littlelearners@westlancs.ac.uk
www.westlancs.ac.uk

Little Learners,
West Lancashire College,
College Way,
Skelmersdale WN8 6LH.

From **September 2017,**
30 hrs FREE* childcare per week
for three and four year olds

** Eligible working parents – terms and conditions apply*

little learners

Ofsted Outstanding

Inspirational Play for Active Kids.

Based on the popular TV characters that children know and love – Thomas & Friends™, Bob the Builder™ and Fireman Sam™, come along to the Albert Dock and inspire your child's imagination with over 13,000 square feet of interactive adventure play across three uniquely themed zones. Once inside you don't sit and watch, but instead it is your child's creativity, physicality and natural curiosity that brings their favourite characters and stories to life.

With free entry to our on-site café and retail area, as well as two themed party areas for your special celebrations and an interactive photo experience, we're a great place to visit come rain or shine – your kids are always protected from the elements and they can explore, build, drive, learn and play to their hearts' content in a safe and secure environment.

Bob the Builder | THOMAS & FRIENDS | FIREMAN SAM

For full details of all spring events and offers and how to book visit:

mattelplayliverpool.com

Mattel Play! Liverpool, Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AA

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Outstanding Provider

Moorside CP Academy Nursery

2 - 5 Year Olds

Back Lane, Skelmersdale WN8 9EA

Award Winning Provision

Open 7.30pm – 5.15pm

FREE PLACES AVAILABLE for 15 hours & 30 hours

**Subject to eligibility*

Parents are welcome to book an appointment to view our nursery provision at any time

FACILITIES INCLUDE

Children's Cookery Area, Sensory Room, Sensory Garden, Library, ICT Suite

OFSTED 2014 quote

Strong leadership and high quality teaching ensure children make excellent progress across all areas of their learning and development in this bright and happy nursery

Come and see us!

VISITS ARRANGED BY TELEPHONING

01695 722931

www.moorside-academy.co.uk

What type of services are available?

After school and breakfast clubs

These can be provided by schools or private nurseries and provide care for your child before or after school, or both. Learning is structured and children are always provided with healthy snacks or meals.

Playgroups

Playgroups offer care for your child several times a week usually, for a morning or an afternoon, and work in conjunction with the Early Years Foundation Stage.

They can help your child to interact and start learning at an age where they are too young to go to school.

Private day nurseries

These are open from Monday to Friday and can look after your child between the hours of 7.30am – 6.00pm.

They are available for children aged 3 months to five years of age and although they are private, there are several Government schemes to help you meet the cost if you feel you are struggling. All are means tested and funding could be one call away.

These nurseries are OFSTED inspected and follow the Government's Early Years Foundation Stage structure of learning.

Holiday Play schemes

Children have a lot more time off school than parents have off work and so for those times holiday play schemes can come in very handy.

They offer childcare only in school holidays and can help the child develop and learn while making sure they are safe and well cared for.

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

Windrows, Skelmersdale WN8 8NP Tel: 01695 724798

www.stedmundswestlancs.co.uk

"This is a good school." Ofsted June 2015

"Pupils enjoy coming to school, behave well and are keen to learn. Pupils get on very well together and say they feel very safe and well cared for in school."

We are pleased to welcome children from 3 years of age.
We welcome children of all faiths and none.
Phone or pop into school any time to see our happy school in action.

Bishop Martin C of E Primary School

Inspiring early years education for children aged 3 - 5 years.

Inspire, Enjoy, Achieve

Why choose Bishop Martin? We offer high quality education, not just childcare

FLEXIBILITY: Sessions available over and above the free 15 hours entitlement we also offer **FREE** lunch time supervision.

- Breakfast club
- After school club
- Fully qualified Nursery & Reception class teachers
- Dedicated team of support staff
- Exceptional continuous provision

OUTSTANDING SIAMS inspection 2016

Come and see our provision and meet the team
Thursday 30th March 2017 • 4.30-6.00pm

Birkrig • Skelmersdale • Lancashire WN8 9BN **01695 724730**

Portico Day Nurseries

PORTICO Nursery Group

www.porticonurserygroup.co.uk

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

- Claim your 'free funded only' place for 2, 3 & 4 year olds.*
  Now available 47.5 weeks of the year!
- Check out our *NEW* parent packages.

*subject to availability & eligibility

Portico St Johns
Birch Green Rd, Skelmersdale WN8 6JJ
t: 01695 555503

Portico Kindergarten
Aughton, Lancashire L39 6SF
t: 01695 422319

Portico West End
Grimshaw Lane, Ormskirk L39 1PA
t: 01695 571757

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Questions to ask childcare providers

DirectGov recommends you ask the following questions to ask childcare providers:

- Safety – what happens in an emergency?
- Are the premises secure (can strangers get in)?
- What training and experience do the carers have?
- How does the provider report safety incidents to parents?
- Do the carers know first aid?
- What is the staff's view on discipline?
- What activities are on offer?
- What happens if you are late picking up your child?
- What food is provided and is it healthy?
- Who can you talk to about your child's progress?
- Be sure to know what happens if your child becomes ill?

Benefits for your child ...

• High quality childcare and early education give your child a head start in primary school, as research shows that it improves their educational, emotional and social development.

• Children with experience of high quality childcare and early education do better in Key Stage 1 and Mathematics at age 7.

• Children who attend a good quality setting are more likely

to be more independent, better able to concentrate and more sociable at the start of primary school. The benefits of part-time attendance are those of full-time attendance.

Barrett & Coe
fantastic photography

Capture the moment!

Purchase a Family Photography Experience for just £25 (valued at £160) and receive:

- A one hour photography session (worth £75)
- A personalised viewing of your images
- A framed 8"x6" photograph (worth £85)
- The chance to win a £5000 family holiday!

Book today, call 01704 807400

Unit 4, The Shakespeare Centre, 45/51 Shakespeare Street, Southport, PR8 5AB www.barrettandcoe.co.uk/southport

Richard Durnings Endowed Primary School Nursery

15 hours free early education and childcare available with our wonderful, caring, outstanding environment

WHAT WE CAN OFFER:

- High staff ratio with excellent Early Years Teacher and Teaching Assistant
- Excellent facilities available in our Early Years Classroom and Outdoor Play Area, Willow Classroom, Field and Outdoor Play Equipment
- Varied, fun filled learning opportunities available each session

For further info please contact
MRS HODGSON - HEAD TEACHER
Email **head@richarddurnings.lancs.sch.uk**
or call **01257 462968**
Chorley Rd, Ormskirk L40 3SL

Ofsted Outstanding 2013 2014

Giggles Day Nursery

Open 51 weeks of the year

Struggling for childcare in the School Holidays?
We may be able to assist you registered for children up-to 8 years.

Giggles offers places from 7.30am to 6.00pm 5 days a week for children from 6 months to 4 years old and is managed and led by Early Years Teachers.

Ofsted February 2017 - GOOD outcome across all areas.
'The Nursery is well organised and provided a firm foundation of HIGH-QUALITY care for the children.'

Come and view our 'FANTASTIC' facility here at Inskip and meet our friendly and professional staff.

Funded places are available for children ages 2, 3 and 4 years

1 Inskip, Skelmersdale, WN8 6JT
Ring for an appointment to view on:
01695 558392
or email us at gigglescb@btconnect.com
Follow us on Facebook

LATHOM PARK CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hall Lane, Lathom, Nr Ormskirk, Lancashire, L40 5UG
01704 892375

EARLY YEARS PROVISION
Places available for 3 and 4 year olds

Our Nursery class is a secure environment which allows each child to thrive according to their strengths and work with children of similar ability regardless of age.
We provide a varied curriculum and with small class sizes and low teacher pupil ratio, understand our children's needs and that of their families.
We understand the children's interests, aiming to keep them involved and ensuring they are learning through their play.

For a tour of the school please speak to our bursar:
bursar@lathompark.lancs.sch.uk

St John's Catholic Primary School,
Chapel Lane, Burscough, L40 7RA

Sunbeams Nursery
at St John's Catholic Primary School

"Children are happy, confident and have a good level of independence for their age."
(Ofsted 2013)

01704 893523
Call to book an appointment and have a look around.

EVERYONE WELCOME
From 3 years. Excellent Standards.
Competitive pricing and free government funding accepted.
Sessions 9.00am—12.00pm and 12.00pm—3.00pm.
Breakfast Club from 7.45am and After School Club until 5.30pm.
Hot Dinners available.

Delph Side Community Primary School

"Inspiring each other to succeed & exceed"

Are you looking for an exceptional Nursery experience for your child?

- 7:45 to 17:30 Care available
- Free breakfast club
- Dynamic early years environment
- Early years swimming "Puddle Ducks"
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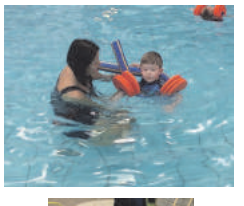

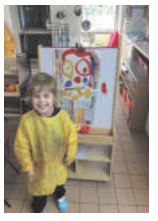

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AMANDA ROBINSON

In the 22nd March edition of your Champion we are publishing our very special **MOTHER'S DAY MESSAGES** feature and you can send your own personal message with a lovely Photo Panel Box.

Simply give us your message (up to 45 words), your mother's name and a good quality photo of her and we'll do the rest.

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Make Her Day Extra Special!

Inability to use email doesn't leave me totally out of the picture...

SORRY, but I'm afraid I'm sticking to my inability to use the modern, digital world again.

Although actually, my tale shows that occasionally, the non-possibility of accepting or sending emails can prove a positive benefit. With good friends, good customer relations and yes, some good fortune, the end result has proved very much better than had I simply been able to press a few keys.

First though, I'm going to tell you a story.

As you may be aware, most of my small amounts of cash are tied up, literally, on the Norfolk Broads in the shape of my beloved classic wooden motor cruiser, *Manxman*.

One unavoidable expense for me is the annual river toll, administered these days by the Broads Authority. This illustrious body is responsible for the upkeep not only of the waterways of this recently-appointed National Park, but for the flora and fauna thereof as well.

And it costs a lot to do this never-ending job, so the annual toll for vessels such as mine increases by considerably more than the rate of inflation each year. And fair enough, if onerous, too.

Anyway, every three months the authority sends out a newspaper, *The Broad Sheet*, much of which is dedicated to telling we toll payers what our money is being spent on.

In last December's issue a full page is devoted to explaining how the annual toll is calculated.

It's all in metric though, basically the greater the volume is now the criteria, instead of the length as previously. And being metric, naturally I haven't yet worked out whether I'll be paying more or less.

But it wasn't metres squared that caught my attention anyway. At the foot of the page is a photograph taken at Potter Heigham, and central to this is, a moored *Manxman*!

It really made my day - I showed it to anyone interested, and several who weren't.

Then, in February, I got my demand for the toll.

And since I wanted to talk to the Broads Authority I thought I would ask if it were possible for me to obtain a copy of the photo.

A charming woman said they could send me a copy - via e-mail. Bother! I thought.

But, she said if I had someone who could e-mail her, she would send them the copy, and all would be shipshape and Bristol fashion.

A very good friend of mine readily agreed and received the picture on the strict understanding that I only wanted it for my own consumption - which rather scuppered my plan to have it enlarged and put on an advertising hoarding!

Anyway, my friend said yes, he had it, and a very good photograph it was too. Better still, he and his wife invited me to lunch so I could pick it up.

And very pleased I was too when he presented me with a postcard-size hard print. But I was truly gobsmacked when he then produced a far larger copy, complete with an attractive frame, with the caption: *'Manxman at Potter Heigham'* neatly printed on it.

So there I am, gazing at my lovely cruiser now on my wall.

Had I been computer-competent I would have had the picture, courtesy of the lovely woman at the Broads Authority, but knowing me it would probably be rather creased and getting on tatty having been carted around between the pages of whatever library book I was reading on the bus to Southport at the time.

Now I am not for one minute suggesting that being unable to send and receive emails is therefore a good thing, but in this one instant at least, I ended up with a beautifully-presented photo of 53-year-old *Manxman* and a really warm feeling about having a true friend who really thought about me - plus an unusual feeling of kinship with an organisation that takes money off me.

It's an ill wind....

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Sporty volunteers work up a sweat to raise £2,500 for charity

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Energetic fundraisers from across Lancashire took part in the third Rainbow House Workout-athon at the Park Hall Plaza near Chorley, enjoying three hours of fun-filled and challenging workouts provided by qualified fitness instructors who gave up their time to do the event for free.

Carole Cochrane, the charity's chief executive said: "The third Rainbow House Workout-athon was a great success again with a fantastic turnout and we'd like to thank everyone who supported us."

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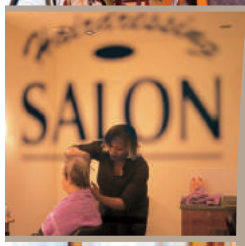
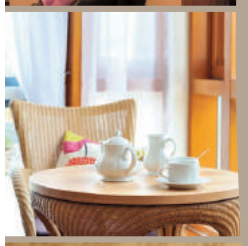
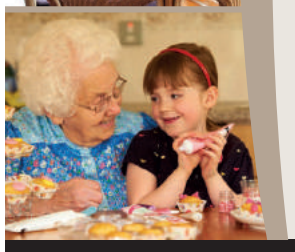
The one common goal for both the patient and the professionals is to always keep people independent for as long as possible in as many ways as possible. In the next few pages The Champion offers you a choice and guidance advice of what can be found and what you can expect. Where care is concerned, one size can never fit all!







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STAYING AT HOME

Most of us will always strive to stay within our familiar surroundings for as long as possible, yet when we start to struggle with daily chores or getting from A to B, life can become very difficult.
Yet, by changing a few things and by learning to rely on the right services for you or your relative, staying at home longer can be a reality.

HOME CARE SERVICES

These kind of services allow to devise tailor made programs to benefit the patient for the very needs he or she has. Furthermore, because of their uniqueness, each program can be altered to match changing needs whenever needed. From shopping to cooking, cleaning or simply visiting to relieve someone from an acute sense of loneliness, home care services can focus on one or multiple needs as they arise and is an effective way of allowing people to remain independent in their own homes.

CARE HOMES

If living at home is no longer possible care homes offer the very best solution. Many care homes offer possibility of visits or even short stays to ensure that they are the right choice for someone. A short stay can also be the chance of dipping a toe in the water for someone initially reluctant. Care homes today are places of haven for the elderly patient and where teams of carers deeply care about individuals.

MEALS

There are many companies that specialise in providing good nutritious meals delivered to your door regularly at a very reasonable cost. A great many choices are freezer friendly too which allows planning in advance and buying ahead. No pots, no pans and little chance of disasters in the kitchen can mean real independence when it comes to this important part of life. Meals can be ordered easily by phone or post or via the Internet.

LONELINESS

There are many companies that specialise in providing good nutritious meals delivered to your door regularly at a very reasonable cost. A great many choices are freezer friendly too which allows planning in advance and buying ahead. No pots, no pans and little chance of disasters in the kitchen can mean real independence when it comes to this important part of life. Meals can be ordered easily by phone or post or via the Internet.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

When you lose someone, however prepared you may think you are, the reality is that you feel helpless and generally unable to think straight for a while. A funeral director will help and it pays to choose a firm as soon as possible. Furthermore with so many pre-paid funeral plans available, the earlier you decide on what you want, the easier it will be on your relatives.

Because a funeral director's responsibility is to ensure that a funeral meets the wishes of the family, he or she will ensure that the funeral is appropriate, dignified and carried out in a professional manner. He will also ensure that each element of the funeral complies with the law. At a time of loss, the funeral director will also be on hand to help with the many practicalities that a funeral demands. For example, a funeral director may assist in moving the person who has died to their premises or your home, provide facilities to view the person who has died, order floral tributes, help you arrange a time and date for the funeral, ensure paperwork is in place, offer caskets to your budget, arrange music at the funeral itself, provide appropriate cars and staff on the day. In short a good funeral director will ensure the funeral is handled with total dignity and make it an occasion to match the person who died last wishes and his or her relatives.

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You can buy a funeral plan from either a funeral-plan provider or directly from a funeral director. You have the choice of either paying a lump sum or monthly instalments.

A funeral plan will not include everything you need for a funeral. Exactly what is covered will vary from provider to provider.

To safeguard your plan, your provider will either place it in a trust fund or invest it in an insurance policy that pays out when you die.

The Financial Conduct Authority doesn't directly regulate funeral plans, but it does have rules to safeguard your money if it is placed in a trust or invested in an insurance policy.

There is a professional body for providers called the Funeral Planning Authority (FPA), which has a code of conduct that all of its members must comply with.

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Shadow minister joins local small business group forum to discuss implications of Brexit

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

SHADOW business minister Bill Esterson joined members of the Sefton and Ormskirk branch of the Federation of Small Businesses at a business forum to discuss the implications of Brexit.

The event at Formby Hall Golf Resort and Spa, saw members discuss the implications of the UK's vote to leave the European Union and what they want to see from the imminent negotiations.

It was chaired by new branch chairman, Southport-based Michael Sandys, who said: "FSB provides a platform for business owners and it is important that their ideas, opinions and concerns on Brexit are listened to and acted on when Article 50 is triggered and talks to leave the EU begin in earnest.

"We were delighted to do this with Sefton Central MP Bill Esterson, who is in a prominent position to influence negotiations as shadow minister for business, energy and industrial strategy, and now international trade.

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"FSB wants a bold and ambitious free trade agreement so our members can continue to operate within European markets, and transitional arrangements that steer the UK well clear of a Brexit cliff edge.

"We are also calling for certainty over post-Brexit business support funding, more support to boost exporting and help firms trade with the world's fastest-growing markets and guarantees to maintain the vital skills of existing EU workers in the UK, as part of a commitment to ensuring small firms will in the future be able to easily recruit the right person, for the right job, at the right time."

Mr Esterson commented: "Thank-you to all the business people who attended the Brexit breakfast meeting and thanks to Phil McCabe and Michael Sandys from the Federation of Small Business for organising. We had a very lively debate about Brexit and about the challenges which smaller businesses face as we leave the European Union."

Shadow business minister Bill Esterson

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Golf clubs urged to take advantage of Open visit

Report by **Henry James**

GOLF clubs in West Lancashire are being urged to use this summer's Open Championship as a springboard to growing the sport.

The world's best golfers will be heading to Royal Birkdale in Southport from July 16-23 with the dream of becoming the latest player to lift the coveted Claret Jug.

The event attracts worldwide attention, and now clubs in the region are hoping to raise awareness of local opportunities to give golf a go.

A Road to The Open campaign is being organised by England Golf, the Professional Golfers Association and the Golf Foundation with a range of activities to promote golf in schools, the local community and clubs.

It is being supported by the Lancashire Union of Golf Clubs and the Lancashire County Ladies Golf Association.

The project is aiming to work with primary and secondary schools, offering special taster sessions, while pupils will be invited to The Open to visit the Golf Foundation and PGA in the specially-created Swing Zone.

Golf-themed assemblies will be delivered in Southport schools while staff, as well as the pupils, will be able to take part in Get into Golf sessions.

Community projects include Street Golf, an initiative that takes the sport away from the traditional fairways and greens and out onto pavements and roads to increase the accessibility of the sport.

Road to The Open organisers are urging more golf clubs to take advantage of the Open

The national final of the HSBC Golf Roots Street Golf competition will be held in the Southport area at the start of Open week, while there will be special family-orientated events before and after the championship.

Golf clubs will be asked to host taster sessions and a Road to The Open competition as well as social events, such as The Open Quiz night or food and drink festivals.

Clubs will also be encouraged to promote Golf Express to visitors to The Open, with the message that there is "time for nine" as part of their trip.

Statistics show that sports enjoy a two-week spike in interest following a major event and Lancashire Golf Development Group county officers, Adam McAlister and Debbie Barber, will be working with clubs to help capitalise on this potential surge in participation.

England Golf regional manager, Gareth Shaw, said: "The Open is golf's Olympic moment and we want to make sure that those people who are interested in trying golf or returning to it as a result of watching or reading about The Open can find the right opportunity to suit them at a local club."

Danielle Thomas, regional coaching development officer for the PGA, said: "This is not just about Open week but creating a legacy from the event."

To find your nearest centre visit getintogolf.org and look at the activity map or call 0800 118 2766.

Appeal to find young dancers

TALENTED dancers from across West Lancashire are being urged to sign up for this summer's Ormskirk Dance Festival.

The Divine Dancers, a community group which aims to make the arts accessible to all, including the most vulnerable in society, are running this year's Festival in partnership with West Lancashire Borough Council and the West Lancs Parks and Countryside Ranger Service for the second year running.

It will be held from 11am-4pm on Sunday, June 25 in Coronation Park.

The Divine Days Community Arts Project, which has bases in Burscough and Skelmersdale, was founded by Katie Whitehead, who runs therapeutic and educational programmes for individuals with additional needs, including creative dance and drama workshops.

Katie said: "This year is going to be even bigger and showcasing even more talent from our community."

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Call to brew up a cuppa for Cancer Research

PEOPLE in West Lancashire are being invited to host a Cancer Research UK Coffee Morning to help raise money to fund life-saving research.

Every day, 110 people are diagnosed with cancer in the North West and the the charity is calling on people across the region to join together with friends, colleagues and family for 'a cuppa and a natter' while raising funds to help beat cancer sooner.

The charity is urging everyone to sign up for a free fundraising pack today and host their own coffee mornings. Although this year's 'official' coffee morning day is Thursday, April 6, would-be fundraisers are invited to feel free to organise their events at any time to suit them before the end of May.

Coffee mornings can be held at home, in the office, at school or in the local community, with people making a donation to attend.

Alison Barbuti, Cancer Research UK spokesperson for Merseyside, said: "Signing up for a Cancer Research UK Coffee Morning is a piece of cake!

"We are encouraging everyone in the North West to host a coffee morning and ask guests to donate in exchange for a drink, snack and chat.

"We all love a good brew here in the North West and taking time out of the office or home for elevenses is a great way to catch up with friends and colleagues.

You can help the fight against cancer by holding a Cancer Research UK Coffee Morning

"Every donation made will help save lives by funding research to accelerate progress in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Survival has doubled since the early 1970s and Cancer Research UK's work has been at the heart of that progress. But every step our doctors, nurses and scientists take relies on public donations and the tireless fundraising of our supporters.

"We hope everyone in the North West will join us by hosting a Cancer Research UK Coffee Morning so we can beat cancer sooner."

The Cancer Research UK Coffee Morning fundraising pack contains everything supporters need to plan their perfect coffee morning, including posters, balloons, recipe suggestions and fundraising ideas.

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Students offered the chance to gain music industry experience

Youth Hostel playing at Liverpool Sound City 2016

EDGE Hill University has organised a series of Saturday events in Liverpool and Ormskirk to complement their partnership with Sound City.

The eclectic programme will offer students the chance to showcase their work and gain music industry experience, as well as an exciting range of performances from cutting edge Liverpool artists and talks from top music industry figures.

Venues will include Static Gallery, Liverpool Small Cinema, Bluecoat and The Arts Centre at Edge Hill University.

The first two of these events took place on Saturday, March 4, when a Vintage Mobile Cinema appeared at Liverpool's Albert Dock screening a selection of music videos from The Label Recordings - Edge Hill's record label which promotes existing and new music.

The evening brought a gig at The Arts Centre, Edge Hill University from four of the most exciting acts on The Label Recordings - Shrinking Minds, Oranj Son, Ali Horn and Youth Hostel.

The programme also includes several symposiums and talks including Independence Day which will tell the story of Radio Merseyside's PMS (Popular Music Show), the UK's longest-running independent music radio show.

This talk will be given by the show's presenter Roger Hill who has been in the driving seat for 35 of its 40 years. Symposia taking place include 30th Century Woman which will discuss women in music, and the Art and Pop symposium Things may come and things may go… with further details of speakers available soon.

Also as part of the Sound City Saturdays programme, avant-garde Liverpool act a.P.A.t.T will present Observed Music, a multi-disciplinary, interactive, site-specific performance installation at the Sound City Festival site.

On the same day, bands from the Label Recordings stable will take over the festival's Emerging Talent stage for a three hour slot.

The programme also features a zine-making workshop with performer, artist, writer and musician Mark Greenwood, You Say You Want a Revolution, a talk/workshop/production of ten one minute sound works with visual artist Alan Dunn and Surround Sounds, a programme of music films, documentaries and videos.

Cathy Butterworth; arts manager at Edge Hill University said: "Ten Sound City Saturdays will provide Edge Hill students with enhanced industry opportunities and experience and strengthen the University's links with Liverpool arts venues, organisations and artists."

Dave Pichilingi, CEO, Sound City said: "We're proud of our partnership with Edge Hill, they're an incredibly forward thinking university who have brought exceptional quality to Sound City with the artists they have showcased, students who have interned and attended the festival and conference and work across dance and multimedia since their early days of working with us."

Edge Hill has been involved with Liverpool Sound City since 2013 and last year signed a three-year deal as the festival's Industry Connection Partner. As part of the deal the University's music arm The Label Recordings, which boasts local success stories Hooton Tennis Club and Oranj Son among their alumni, has an exclusive stage at the festival to showcase bands from their stable.

Successful night for group

IT was a successful night for Mawdesley Amateur Dramatics Society (MADS who are shown above) at the annual NODA North West (District 6) awards dinner held this year at the Southport Theatre & Convention Centre.

Not only did MADS win the award for Best Staging/Set but Debbie Wells also won the Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role in a Play award.

MADS members also received nominations for Best Male Actor in a Supporting Role in a Play (Phil Quinn as Tommy in Breezeblock Park), Best Female Actor in a Lead Role in a play (Bridgett Welch as Betty in Breezeblock Park), Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role in a Pantomime (Debbie Wells as Queen Severina in Snow White), Best Comedy Performance in a Pantomime (Finlay Robertson as the Huntsman in Snow White) and the new Award for Innovation in Writing or Adaption of a Pantomime (Emma Meen for Snow White).

MADS have just performed a Variety Show. The show featured music, dance and comedy.

In addition, if you would like to join MADS they meet every Wednesday from 7.45pm in the village hall. New members are always welcome.

Busy year for Orchestra

ANOTHER exciting musical year is planned for 2017 featuring the Southport Orchestra.

The first concert will take place at St. John's Church, St. John's Road, Birkdale at 7.30pm on Saturday, March 18, when the Orchestra (leader: Mel Foster) will as usual be under the direction of Jeff Rimmer.

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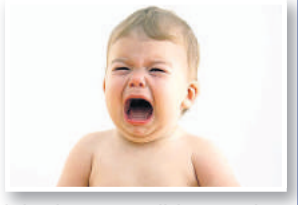

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Elvis Presley/Tom Jones 17 Mar
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★4 Nights Arrive Monday £109.95 from 13, 20, 27 Mar 3, 10, 17, 24 Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May 5, 12, 19, 26 Jun

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LADIES SKI/CASUAL jacket very warm worn once size medium may deliver £10 ono 01515263851

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Compact mat cutter model 301-S £65 01695 728827

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HOUSE AND HOME

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DINING TABLE Solid wood light honey oak colour square chunky table two cream coloured leatherette cappuccino chairs absolutely perfect condition £180 07948156871

DINING TABLE Dark rosewood, oval shape, extends to 1.9 mtrs. Very good condition. £100 ono 01704 538825

LARGE SETTEE 3 piece, cream/beige, wool, slight damage £80. 3 piece large settee, cream and light pink with dark patterns £180. 01704 547316

1950`S KENWOOD CHEF Vintage food mixer, Model A700D, in cream, with green knob and blender cover, stainless steel bowl, with beater and whisk, reasonable working condition, £50 01704 530137

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DISHWASHER Full size,- good condition 01704229858 07752568443

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M & S large 2 seater sofa-bed with matching recliner chair, in sand chenille. Excellent condition, buyer to collect. Cost £250 01704 461394

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HOUSE AND HOME

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RADIATOR White single fin 600cm x 1000cm radiator, as new. Silver 62 x 50 used. Photos on request . £30 both 0151 5262992

WHITE TOILET White close coupled porcelain toilet and cistern with soft closing lid, very good condition. Photos on request. £20 ono)151 5262992

QUEEN SIZE BED & headboard purchased in December 2017 unused, proof of purchase available. (Cost £648) Will accept £400 01695572830

BATHROOM SINK White porcelain bathroom sink and pedestal, complete with taps and plug.Perfect condition. £30 ono. Photos on request. 0151 5262992

OFFICE CHAIR black leather with metal frame legs and leather arm rests vgc £30 01704870033

KRUPS MELODY Dolce Gusto coffee machine in black. Brand New/boxed £10 voucher inside together with assorted coffee pods Bargain £45 01704220356

SOLID WOOD Benches (TWO) Hand Made from reclaimed wood. Seat L36 x W11 X D1 1/2 inches 4 Chunky turned legs £50 01704220356

DYSON ACCESSORIES Extending crevice brush/Flexible hose/Collection tank/Filter/Small brush/Wand and others. some new others in excellent condition bargain £15 01704220356

CONSERVATORY CHAIRS 6 months old 2 chairs excellent condition hardly used blue pattern. Cost over £250 when new. £70 ono 0151 9320454

MISC

LIVERPOOL HISTORY Various books 20 paperbacks on Liverpool history in excellent condition £15 Maghull 01515262502

BEREAVEMENT ITEMS
Small items of furniture, light shades, mirrors, china, foot stools , pictures, vases, gifts sets, and much more from £5-00 £0.00

07434841029

MISC

NEW ITEMS
Ladies costume Jewellery, bags, shoes, clock, gift sets, scarfs and much more, ideal presents. Also a number of nice new Gents items. Items range from £3 to £25.
£0.00

07434841029

LAMP SHADES Traditional Fabric Standard Lamp Shades One Pale Plain Cream One Pale Floral Good Condition Bargain £8 each Omskirk 01695574988

BOOKS X50 ideal for car boot sale all in immaculate condition like new. Hardback & paperback adult & teenager books £20 01704 875299

LADIES WILSON golf clubs irons 3 different woods putter ideal for beginner right handed bargain the lot £10 01515319425/07773242918

30 X liverpool cup final charity shield league cup 70s upwards bargain the lot £30 01515319425/07773242918

BOXES OF various household items ideal for car boot sale £30 may deliver 01515263851

UPVC FACIA board and trimming in brown 4 feet long 6 inches wide never used £20 ono 01515263851

MANCHESTER UTD fully signed football giggs scholes keane etc bargain £25 01515319425/07773242918

PING G5 driver used once left handed cost £200 in sale bargain £75 01515319425 or 07773242918

NEW TAYLOR made 6 iron burner ideal for going the driving range top quality club bargain £20 01515319425/07773242918

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FIRE WOOD large amount of firewood £35 a stack 01704 532648

ALUMINIUM LADDER small 6ft scaffold ladder £10 01704532648

BLONDE WIGS Two wigs each with a mannequin head. Complete with an unused care kit. £35 01772 814774

HAIR STRAIGHTNERS Brush style in white Anti scold/temperature control/head massage function.Used twice. Boxed. As seen on TV Bargain £8 01704220356

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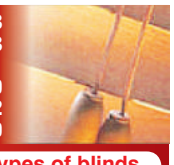
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MORRIS MINOR items from hub caps to rubber mats all in good condition some never used phone for details 01704 532648

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LADIES GOLF SHOES Size five and half to six, made by Dexter in white and tan hardly been worn. £8.00

07434841029

GOLF IRONS Acer Irons 3-SW vgc. £20 ono 07773 698733

CROSS TRAINER Elliptical rear drive type. Similar idea to Nordictrack E10 selling for £699. Good condition. Excellent quality. £299 ono. Southport 01704 553972

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Upselling and cross-selling the full range of products and services whilst building strong customer relationships and improving customer satisfaction ratings

Arranging appointments for the Field Sales team where appropriate, ensuring full notes and preparation are passed to the colleague attending the appointment

Ensuring sales targets are achieved, along with other activity-based targets

To be considered for this role of B2B Telesales Executive you MUST have the following experience, skills, knowledge and attributes:

Successful track record within telesales, ideally gained within the telecoms industry although applications will be considered from those with other industry sales / qualified appointment making experience

Enthusiasm and keen to learn

Excellent communication and rapport building skills

Ability to negotiate and close new business sales

Self-motivated and a hunger for success

Salary: £18,000-£24,000 level dependent on industry experience and proven sales track record. Most importantly you will have uncapped earning potential with commission / bonuses.

Contract Type: Permanent
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Closing date for applications: ***16th March 2017***

We are not seeking the assistance of recruitment agencies. Preferential treatment will be given to Legion employees at risk of redundancy.

Elm Tree Community Primary School
Elmers Wood Road, Skelmersdale, WN8 6SA (60 on roll)

School business manager 3
£36,019 to £40,619 a year. **Ref: 161223**

37 hours a week. We are seeking to appoint a highly motivated and enthusiastic School Business Manager, who as a member of our Senior Management Team, will ensure the active promotion of excellence in all aspects of the Schools work.
Candidates should have direct experience of budget management and strategic financial planning. Any experience in personnel and Health & Safety would also be desirable.
The School Business Manager will be the most senior member of the non-teaching staff within the School and as such will have oversight of a number of key areas including finance, personnel, administration and Health & Safety. A proven ability to lead and develop effective teams and to manage projects is essential.
The importance we place on this role is reflected in the fact that we are seeking to appoint a Business Manager who will play an active part in the Senior Management Team. Leading on finance is a key element of the role and the successful candidate will need to demonstrate a strong track record within this area, along with the ability to develop and implement effective processes to ensure that the school has rigorous and robust finance management systems.
We would welcome applications from any potential candidates who have the skills and qualities required for this role. While it would suit someone from a school background seeking career development, we would also welcome applications from candidates from other backgrounds with the skills and experiences which are relevant to the role. The ability to lead and develop business management functions to support the development of our pupils is essential.
As a forward thinking school, we are committed to the on-going professional development of our staff and arrangements are in place with an experienced School Business Manager, to provide the successful candidate with effective support and guidance for your induction into the role.
Visits to the school prior to application would be welcomed.
We will be offering two opportunities to make an informal visit to the school and have an informal discussion with the Deputy Headteacher, Martyn Taylor. These will be 9am on 14 March and 2.30pm on 21 March. Please contact school to confirm attendance on 01695 50924.
The post you are applying for is covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Exceptions) Act 1975. If successful you will be required to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service for a 'disclosure'.
Interview date: 30 March 2017.

Application forms: Return completed applications to Headteacher c/o admin@elmtree.lancs.sch.uk. Closing date: 24 March 2017 at 12 noon.

Some schools are excluded as commitment is on an individual basis.

Lancashire County Council

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BATTY LORRAINE JOYCE

The family of Mrs Loraine Joyce Batty would like to express their heartfelt gratitude and say Thank You to each and everyone for making this difficult time easier.
We greatly appreciate all your kind words, sympathy cards and donations (for The British Heart Foundation)
It was extremely overwhelming to think how many peoples lives she touched.
We would also like to thank The Co-Operative Funeral for all their help in the arrangements.
We miss you so much and love you always.
Gillian, Diane, Luke and James
xxxx

ANNIVERSARIES

LIN & TOMMY WHALLEY
Silver Wedding
7th March 2017
Congratulations and best wishes on your Silver Wedding.
All our Love, Max & Howie, Kris & Marie, Paul & Clare, Julie & Andy, and all your Grandchildren
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Announcements

DEATHS

STANFIELD ALAN JOHN
28th February 2017
Aged 82 years
Beloved Dad of Chris (Dec), Hazel (Dec), Mike, Kim and Jean, Husband of late Jean and all Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.
Funeral service at St. Helens Crematorium on Thursday 9th March at 10.30am.
Donations: Carla Lane Animals In Need.
Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services 01695 731199

NOLAN TOM (Knocker)
26th February 2017
Peacefully in hospital, aged 76 years of Southport

Loving Brother of the late Colin, dear Brother-in-law of Lynn, much loved Uncle of Karen & Jamie and Mark & Rachel and Great Uncle to Amelia and Charlie. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.
Funeral service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 10th March 2017 at 11.20am.
Family flowers only please, donations if desired for RNLI.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale & Scarisbrick. Tel 01695 581769/720012.

DEATHS

MAWDSLEY DORIS
26th February 2017
Peacefully in hospital
Aged 88 years of Skelmersdale.
The dearly loved Wife of the late James, loving Mum of Geoffrey and Barbara, dear Mother in law of Jenny and Brian and devoted Nana of Katie, Jack and Olivia. All enquiries to H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk, Scarisbrick. Tel:- 01695 722122/720012.

ALLEN IRENE
22nd February 2017
Peacefully at Aaron Crest Nursing Home, Skelmersdale
Aged 85 years.
Formerly of Upholland
The dearly loved Wife of Jack. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Monday 6th March 2017 at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the Alzheimer's Society.
All enquiries to H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk, Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012.

BETTY (Irene) DOUGLAS
18th February 2017
Aged 83 years
Passed away peacefully. Devoted Wife of the late Denzil. Much loved Mum of Keith and the late Belinda. She will be greatly missed by her dear friends. Funeral service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 13th March at 3:20pm. Donations in lieu of flowers are being gratefully received for Retired Greyhound Trust.
Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

WALSH PATRICIA R.I.P.
21st February 2017
Aged 83 years
Loving Wife of the late Joseph. Beloved Sister of Gerald and the late Molly, Lenny, Matt and Linda. Special Aunt to all her Nieces and Nephews. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.
Requiem Mass to be held at Sacred Heart R.C. Church on Friday 10th March at 10:30am followed by interment at Ainsdale Catholic Cemetery.
Flowers welcome.
Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

ORMSBY GLENYS
28th February 2017
Aged 61 years
Following her battle with Motor Neurone Disease
A much loved and loving Wife to Simon, a wonderful Mum to John and James and dear Sister, Glenys will be very greatly missed and fondly remembered for her quick wit, sense of humour and quiet support offered to her family and friends.
Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough, L40 7SP on Thursday 9th March at 11:30am. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Queenscourt Hospice.
Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

CURRAN EDITH (Nee Smith)
25th February 2017
Suddenly at home
Aged 92
Wife of the late Albert, much loved Mam of Duts (deceased) and Tony (deceased), Margaret, Michael, Albert.
Mother-In-Law of Philly, Honor, Mal, Sue, Carol.
Devoted Grandma to all her Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.
Sadly missed by all who knew her.
Funeral will take place at 1:45pm on Friday 10th March at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough L40 7SP
Enquiries to Devonports Funeral Services. Tel: 01695 731199

Announcements

Call the Classified Sales Team on **01704 392392**
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DEATHS

WRIGHT JOHN

3rd March 2017
Aged 91 years

Dearly loved Husband of Lilian. Loving Father to Janet, Susan, Pamela, Paul and Carolyn. Special Grandad to all his Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral service at St Thomas' Parish Church, Lydiate on Tuesday 14th March at 2:00pm followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Dementia UK. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR.
Telephone: 01704 500086.

BALDWIN JOHN

4th March 2017
Aged 89 years

Beloved Husband of Edmea (Deceased). Father of Terry and Geoff.
Family flowers only by request but donations in memory of John are being gratefully received for Alzheimers Society. For funeral details and all enquiries contact Hunters Funeral Directors, 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk
Tel: 01695 572997

DEWHURST RENEE

2nd March 2017
Peacefully in hospital
Aged 89 years of Lathom.

The dearly loved Wife of Ernest, loving Mum of Peter and Sandy, dear Mother in law of Diane and Geoff, devoted Nan of Corinne, Thomas, James and Josh and Great Nan to Megan. Funeral Service at Bethel Methodist Church, Clayton Street, Skelmersdale on Thursday 9th March 2017 at 12 noon followed by Cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Alzheimer's Society.
All enquiries to H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel:- 01695 722122 / 720012

DEATHS

HOLT OSWALD (OSSY)

3rd March 2017
Peacefully at his home in Skelmersdale
Aged 85 years

The dearly loved Husband of the late Ethel. Loving Dad of Kath and Lynn, dear Father in law of Neil and Steve, devoted Grandad of Ian, Diane, Roy and Michelle and great Grandad to Summer and Bailey. Funeral service at St Helens Crematorium on Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 11.30am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the British Heart Foundation.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel:- 01695 722122/720012.

WELCH KATHLEEN

22nd February 2017
Peacefully in hospital aged 82 years

Beloved partner of Vince, Mum of Brian and Nana of Mollie and Joe. Funeral service at St Anne's RC Church, Prescot Road, Ormskirk on Friday March 10th 2017 at 11:30am followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough at 1:00pm. All family and friends are welcome to join us at the Bull And Dog, Liverpool Road South, Burscough. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired for Cancer Research UK c/o Graham J. Clegg, Independent Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull. L31 5JB. Telephone: 0151 520 3330 or at www.cleggfunerals.co.uk

STEVENTON RITA

4th March 2017
Aged 77 years

Much loved Wife of Leslie, Sister of Brian and John.
Rita will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Cancer Research UK.
For funeral details and all enquiries contact Hunters Funeral Directors, 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk.
Tel: 01695 572997

DEATHS

TAYLOR PAULINE

1st Mach 2017
Peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family, aged 79 years, after an illness bravely borne.

Loving wife of Bill. Much loved mum of John, Cathy, Robert, Graham and Paula. A loving grandmother to all her grandchildren and great grand-children. Pauline will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. A Requiem Mass will be held at St John the Evangelist Church, Burscough on Thursday 9th March 2017 at 1:00pm, followed by Committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough at 2:30pm. Family flowers only by request, but donations are being gratefully received by the family for Cancer Research U.K. For further enquiries please contact Cookson Tyrer Funeralcare, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

IN MEMORIAM

BOYER MARY

Your presence I miss, Your memory I treasure, Loving you always, Forgetting you never.

DAY NORA

14th March 2013

No words we write, can ever say, how much we love and miss you, every day.

Although we're not together, we're never far apart, because you have that special place, here within our hearts.

Love and miss you so much.

Loving Husband Les and Family xx

PRAYERS

Saint Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be glorified, loved and pre-served throughout the world now and forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us, St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hope-less pray for us.

Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayers may be answered. Say it for 9 days and it has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude

Instructions:
Light your candle and declare out loud what miracle you need right now. Repeat this prayer 9 times for 9 days. Do this at the same time each day, never skip a day. If you do, you need to start over again. On the 9th day give thanks, and say "So be it." Give it up to Saint Jude and let go of any worry. You will see results in 72 hours. Never use this prayer to manipulate or control anyone. Use it only with the best intentions.

This is the most important part of the entire process YOU MUST pass this miracle prayer onto others. Some people publish it in the paper, others e-mail it to their friends, and others post it in a public building.

J.

CHAPLET OF ST JUDE

Oh Holy St Jude.
Apostle and Martyr, great in virtures and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special help in time of need.

To You I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly request assistance.
Help me in my present and urgent petition.

In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked.

Say three our Fathers, three Hail Marys and three Glorias.

This novena to be said for nine consecutive days.

J

LOST & FOUND

LOST INDOOR CAT MAX

Very timid. Missing from Preston New Road Southport, by Larkfield School for a week now. Desperate for any information. Please check all outdoor buildings as will probably be in hiding. Substantial cash reward waiting if found. Large BSH male, chipped & neutered.

PLEASE CALL:
07825 706817

PRAYERS

THANKS TO ST. JUDE PRAYERS ANSWERED

PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(CLAREMONT DRIVE, ORMSKIRK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over Claremont Drive, for its full length, in the Borough of Chorley.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0700 hours until 1700 hours on Friday 10th March 2017 until 1700 hours on Friday 17th March 2017 or, until completion of the works within this period.
3. No alternative route for vehicular traffic is available as Claremont Drive is a cul de sac

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/17/08/6486/arh]

www.lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council

Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of the proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the above Act to authorise the stopping up of four irregular shaped part widths of Beechtrees comprising footway, four lengths of unnamed footpaths leading off Beechtrees and three associated unnamed footpaths, at Skelmersdale in the Borough of West Lancashire.

If made, the Order would authorise the stopping up only to enable development to be carried out should planning permission be granted by West Lancashire Borough Council. The Secretary of State gives notice of the draft Order under Section 253 (1) of the 1990 Act.

Copies of the draft Order and relevant plan will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2DF in the 28 days commencing on 08 March 2017, and may be obtained, free of charge, from the address stated below quoting NATTRAN/NW/S247/2596.

Any person may object to the making of the proposed order by stating their reasons in writing to the Secretary of State at nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk or National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR, quoting the above reference. Objections should be received by midnight on **05 April 2017**. You are advised that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant/agent to enable your objection to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your objection.

S Zamenzadeh, Casework Manager

JOSPICE LOTTERY WINNERS

Friday 3rd March 2017

£1000..... Mrs Parson, Thornton
£250..... Mrs Cookson, Southport
£100..... Mr Dykhuizen, Maghull
Plus 15 other winners of £10 each

QUEENSCOURT *2000* DRAW RESULTS

This week's £1,500 Prize Winner lives in Freshfield Road, Freshfield
£1500 = 28809 £100 =354733

Winners of £20 are as follows:

286064	21203
21162	19758
21580	27628
27422	26143
14480	233625
103371	29870
27576	22648
24503	28750
18462	15132
25281	19398

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Lena Transport Solutions Ltd is applying for a licence to use Holland Moss Business Park, West Pimbo Road, Skelmersdale WN8 9PA as an operating centre for 1 truck and 1 trailer.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2017/0138/FUL Erection of new industrial building for the repair and maintenance of motor vehicles at Plox Motors Ltd, Plox Brow, Tarleton.

Application No: 2017/0141/FUL Construction of new fishing lake, temporary kitchen and welfare building, car park incorporating new highways access, associated landscaping at Land To The North Of, Daisy Lane, Lathom.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2017/0010/FUL To Add a 'Black Metal Chimney Exhaust' to side of Kitchen extension. For the purpose of fitting a log burning stove in the kitchen/living room extension part of the dwelling at 3 Higher Lane, Up Holland.

Application No: 2017/0142/FUL Installation of bi-fold door. Heat extractor and fan unit at the rear at 26 Burscough Street, Ormskirk.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 8th March 2017
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT938

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NOTICE OF MAKING
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (REVOCATION, PROHIBITION OF WAITING AND PROHIBITION OF LOADING AND UNLOADING) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 01 March 2017 Lancashire County Council made the above Traffic Regulation Order under Sections under Sections 1, 2 and 4 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to:

1) Revoke the "Lancashire County Council (West Lancs Area) (On Street Parking Places, Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting) Consolidation Order 2009" insofar as it relates to items (99)(b), 129(a) and (b) of that Order.

2) Introduce a Prohibition of Waiting on the following lengths of road:
(a) Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge, both sides, from a point 9 metres north of the centreline of Apple Hey for a distance of 18 metres in a southerly direction;
(b) Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge, both sides, from a point 29 metres south of the centreline of Apple Hey in a southerly direction to a point 29 metres north of the centreline of Ashfield Terrace;
(c) Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge, both sides, from a point 48 metres north of the centreline of Apple Hey for a distance of 16 metres in a southerly direction;
(d) Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge, the east side, from a point 260 metres north of the centreline of Farrier Way, for a distance of 22 metres in a southerly direction;
(e) Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge, the east side, from a point 10 metres south of the centreline of Mill Lane in a northerly direction to a point 13.5 metres north of the centreline of Mill Lane;
(f) Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge, the east side, from a point 45 metres south of the centreline of Ashfield Terrace for a distance of 18 metres in a southerly direction;
(g) Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge, the west side, from a point 45 metres south of the centreline of Ashfield Terrace in a southerly direction to a point 105 metres north of the centreline of Farrier Way;
(h) Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge, both sides, from a point 12 metres north of the centreline of Ashfield Terrace for a distance of 18 metres in a southerly direction;
(i) Mill Lane, Appley Bridge, both sides, from a point 7 metres east of the centreline of Appley Lane North for a distance of 17 metres in an easterly direction;
(j) Hutton Way, Ormskirk, the north west side, from a point 6 metres north east of the centreline of A570, Park Road for a distance of 45 metres in a north easterly direction;
(k) Halsall Lane, Ormskirk, the north-west side, from a point 16 metres south west of the centreline of Church Hill Road, for a distance of 37 metres in a north easterly direction;
(l) New Fold, Upholland, the north west side, from a point 3.5 metres west of the centreline of Sandbrook Road in a south westerly direction for a distance of 91 metres;
(m) New fold, Upholland, the south east side, from a point 3.2 metres west of the centreline of Sandbrook Road, in a south westerly direction for a distance of 84.5 metres;
(n) Sandbrook Road, Upholland the west side, from a point 5.4 metres north of the centreline of New Fold for a distance of 15 metres in a southerly direction.

3) Introduce a Prohibition of Loading and Unloading on the following lengths of road:
(a) Hutton Way, Ormskirk, the south east side, from a point 6 metres north east of the centreline of A570, Park Road in a north easterly direction to a point 75 metres north east of the centreline of A570, Park Road;
(b) Hutton Way, Ormskirk, the north west side, from a point 6 metres north east of the centreline of A570, Park Road for a distance of 45 metres in a north westerly direction.

This Order will come into force on the 10 March 2017. A copy of the Order, and all other relevant documents may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of West Lancashire Borough Council, PO Box 16, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF, and at the offices of The Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services, Lancashire County Council, County Hall, PO Box 78, Preston PR1 8XJ, **quoting ref: LSG4/5.54717/AFR**. Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that it or they are not within the powers conferred by the Act, or that any requirement of the Act or of any instrument made under the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within 6 weeks from the date on which the order is made, apply for the purpose to the High Court.

Ian Young, Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services
08 March 2017

www.lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council

PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(CASTLE LANE, ORMSKIRK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Castle Lane, Ormskirk from its junction with Lathom Lane, to its junction with A577 Crosshall Brow in the Borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0700 hours until 1700 hours on Tuesday 14th March 2017 to Friday 24th March 2017 or, until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Lathom Lane –Dark Lane – Greetby Hill – Tower Hill – A577 Wigan Road – A577 Crosshall Brow and vice versa

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/17/08/6485/arh]

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Customer Deposit	£169	Total Amount Payable	£14,698.06
Amount of Credit	£11,274.46	APR Representative	3.7%

Brand New Vauxhall Astra
1.4 Energy 125PS 5dr
£500 minimum part exchange

For just **£199 per month**
Over **47 months** with **£399 Customer deposit**

Cash Price	£16,903.94	47 Monthly Payments	£199.98
Deposit Allowance	£2,000	Optional Final Payment	£6,080
Minimum Part Exchange	£500	Interest Charges	£1,474.12
Customer Deposit	£399	Total Amount Payable	£18,378.06
Amount of Credit	£14,004.94	APR Representative	3.7%

Brand New Vauxhall Corsa
1.4 Special Edition Energy 90PS 5dr
£500 minimum part exchange

For just **£149 per month**
Over **47 months** with **£149 Customer deposit**

Cash Price	£12,480	47 Monthly Payments	£149.50
Deposit Allowance	£1,800	Optional Final Payment	£4,038
Minimum Part Exchange	£500	Interest Charges	£1,033.50
Customer Deposit	£149	Total Amount Payable	£13,811.50
Amount of Credit	£10,031	APR Representative	4.8%

Brand New Vauxhall Viva
1.0 SE A/C
£500 minimum part exchange

For just **£139 per month**
Over **47 months** with **£139 Customer deposit**

Cash Price	£8,920.65	Optional Final Payment	£3,325
Minimum Part Exchange	£500	Interest Charges	£1,576.35
Customer Deposit	£139	Total Amount Payable	£10,497
Amount of Credit	£8,281.65	APR Representative	6.9%
47 Monthly Payments	£139		

Brand New Vauxhall Corsa
1.4 Special Edition Energy 90PS 3dr
£500 minimum part exchange

For just **£139 per month**
Over **47 months** with **£139 Customer deposit**

Cash Price	£11,887.01	47 Monthly Payments	£139
Deposit Allowance	£1,800	Optional Final Payment	£3,895
Minimum Part Exchange	£500	Interest Charges	£979.99
Customer Deposit	£139	Total Amount Payable	£13,165
Amount of Credit	£9,448.01	APR Representative	4.8%

Brand New Vauxhall Mokka X
1.6 Active 5dr
£500 minimum part exchange

For just **£209 per month**
Over **47 months** with **£499 Customer deposit**

Cash Price	£17,521.71	47 Monthly Payments	£209
Deposit Allowance	£2,400	Optional Final Payment	£5,760
Minimum Part Exchange	£500	Interest Charges	£1,460.29
Customer Deposit	£499	Total Amount Payable	£18,982
Amount of Credit	£14,122.71	APR Representative	3.7%

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FOR A moment I wondered whether William Woollard would be *Top Gear*'s secret weapon.

The opening theme would play, the camera would cut to the grounds of a stately home and the nation would breathe a sigh of collective relief as the silvery-haired doyen of 1980s motoring telly would rest one foot on a Ford Orion's front bumper and launch into a tech-heavy monologue. Apologies if you're too young to get the reference, but it's about as far from Clarkson-era *Top Gear* as it's possible to venture.

Or Chris Evans' VERY SHOUTY REBOOT OF THE SHOW last year. I'm on record in this very newspaper for declaring it not to be as terrible as everyone now seems to remember it is – it did have its moments, I'm afraid – but it could've been so much more. I really did think under Chris' wing it'd be a sort of *TFI Friday* on four wheels, but it wasn't. It was everything that worked on *Top Gear* the year before, only A BIT SHOUTIER.

But then last Sunday night *Top Gear* wheeled out its actual secret weapon. It was three blokes who weren't shouting, but talking knowledgeably about cars and having the occasional laugh while they were at it. Sound familiar?

When I mean knowledgeable I mean really, unashamedly geeky on the automotive know-how front. Chris Harris' observations on the continuity errors in *Ronin* are the sort of things that'd earn you points in a pub quiz, and even on Sunday night's space-themed main film the trio were blathering about wheel bearings and crumple zones. It won over most of the car bores and it meant the funny bits – read the unscripted Volvo crash and a London taxi driving off on its own into the desert – were genuinely funny.

I enjoyed Chris Evans' *TG* tenure despite the awkward moments when it didn't quite gel properly, but the latest episode was better than all of them. It's as though someone high up in the BBC listened to all the criticism, took its high octane ratings winner down a few notches and honed the really good bits under Matt Le Blanc's wing.

If you like cars, don't mind being a bit geeky about them and enjoy putting your feet up on a Sunday night I reckon the rest of this new series will be worth watching. Unless you're expecting William Woollard, in which case you'll be sorely disappointed.

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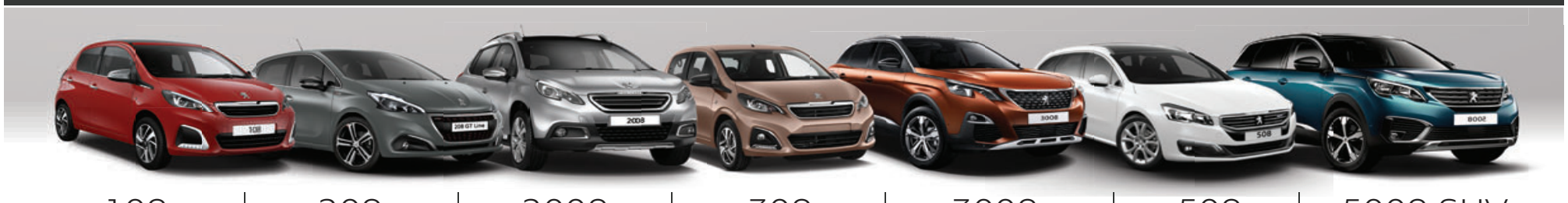

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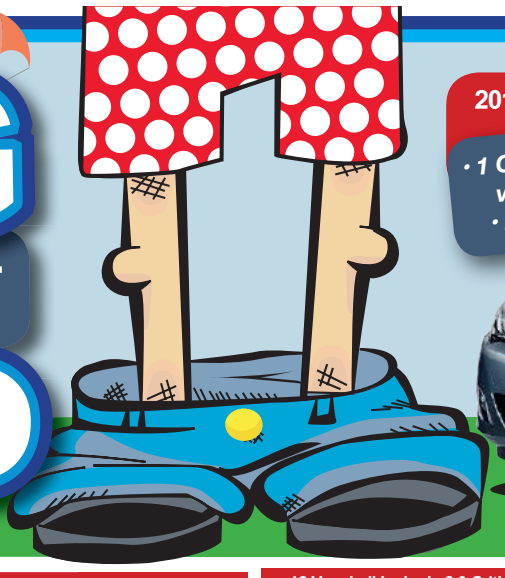

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12 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 Cdti SE

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• FSH
• 65000 Miles
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12 Vauxhall Astra Cdti Estate

• 1 Owner
• 55000 Miles
• FSH
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61 VW Golf 1.6 Tdi Match 5 Dr

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• Air Con
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62 Ford Focus 1.6 Tdci Estate

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• Air Con
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62 Peugeot 308 1.6 Hdi Sportium 5 Dr

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• Alloys
• FSH
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13 Nissan Note 1.6 N Tech + Auto

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• Sat Nav
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• Rear Privacy

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12 Ford Mondeo TDCi Zetec 5 Dr

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• Alloys
• Rear Privacy
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13 Peugeot Partner 1.6 Diesel Tepee Outdoor

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• Air Con
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63 Honda Civic 1.6 Dti SE 5 Dr

• 44000 Miles
• FSH
• Alloys
• Air Con

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13 Ford Focus 1.6 Tdci Titanium 5 Dr

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• 44000 Miles
• Alloys

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12 Bmw 318 Diesel Estate

• FSH
• Air Con
• CD Player
• Alloys

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63 Skoda Octavia Tdi Elegance Estate

• 1 Owner
• 65000 Miles
• 1/2 Leather
• Alloys

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63 Ford Grand C Max Tdci 7 Seater

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• 59000 Miles
• Air Con

Was £10,695
No Deposit
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09 Volvo Xc90 2.4 Diesel Auto

• 7 Seats
• 1/2 Leather
• Air Con
• Alloys

Was £10,995
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60 Audi A1 1.6 Tdi Sport 3 Dr

• Upgraded Alloys
• 21000 Miles
• 1/2 Leather

Was £10,495
NO DEPOSIT
Only £9,995

63 Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 Cdti Tourer Sri

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• 7 Seats
• Rear Privacy

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NO DEPOSIT
Only £10,695

12 Volvo S60 1.6 Diesel R Design

• 57000 Miles
• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player

Was £11,495
NO DEPOSIT
Only £10,995

61 Vw Scirocco 2.0 Tdi Gt Bmotion Tech

• FSH
• Alloys
• CD Player

Was £11,995
NO DEPOSIT
Only £10,995

61 VW Passat Cc 2.0 Tdi GT

• Leather
• Sat Nav
• Alloys
• Air Con

Was £11,995
NO DEPOSIT
Only £11,495

13 Volvo V40 1.6 D R Design

• 1 Owner
• Sat Nav
• Leather
• Alloys

Was £11,995
NO DEPOSIT
Only £11,495

62 Bmw 116 Diesel 5 Dr

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• New Alloys
• Priv Glass

Was £12,495
NO DEPOSIT
Only £11,995

61 Kia Sportage 2.0 CRDi KX2

• 55000 Miles
• 1 Owner
• 1/2 Leather
• Alloys

Was £12,995
NO DEPOSIT
Only £11,995

13 Mercedes B180 Cdi Sport

• 58000 Miles
• Leather
• Upgraded alloys

Was £13,495
NO DEPOSIT
Only £12,495

12 Nissan Qashqai Dci 7 Seater

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Pan Roof
• Priv Glass

Was £12,995
NO DEPOSIT
Only £12,495

13 Audi A4 2.0 Tdi Technik 4 Dr

• Sat Nav
• Full Leather
• FSH
• 1 Owner

Was £13,995
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Only £12,995

61 Mercedes C220 Cdi Sport Plus Auto,

• 18" Alloys
• AMG Plus Spec
• FSH

Was £14,995
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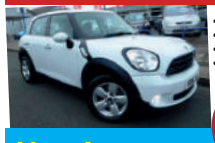
Only £13,995

15 Mini 2.0 Diesel Countryman 5 Dr



• Automatic
• 5000 Miles
• 1 Owner
• Alloys

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09 Bmw X5 3.0 D M Sport Auto

• 51000 Miles
• Sat Nav
• Privacy Glass
• Media Pack

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10 Range Rover Sport 3.0 Td V6 HSE

• FSH
• 20" Alloys
• Side Steps
• Leather

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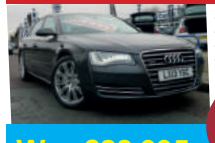
13 Audi A8 3.0 TDi Exec Sport Auto



• 20" Alloys
• Leather
• Sat nav
• 1 Owner

Was £28,995
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Only £24,995

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• Pan Roof
• Sat Nav
• Red Leather

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2017

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58 CITROEN C1 1.0 COOL 5DR, black, service history, electric pack, low tax and insurance, 2 keys

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11 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI 5DR, black, full service history, new shape, 1 company owner, electric windows, air con, alloys, cruise control

£3,990 or FROM £23 a week

58 FORD FOCUS 2.0 CC3 2DR, bronze, 59,000 miles, service history, alloys, 2 keys, electric windows

£4,990 or FROM £28 a week

06 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI S LINE 2DR, silver, service history, alloys, new model, full leather, BOSE surround, climate control

£4,990 or FROM £28 a week

11 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 SRI 5DR, black, service history, great spec, air con, alloys, climate control, cruise control

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60 RENAULT GRAND MODUS 1.6 DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR AUTO, blue, 23,271 miles, full service history, 2 keys, electric windows, alloys

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59 RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR, blue, 55,226 miles, service history, full glass roof, alloys, 2 keys

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59 FORD C-MAX 1.6 STYLE 5DR, grey, 37,817 miles, 1 former keeper, face lift model, low tax & insurance, 1 former keeper, full service history

£5,690 or FROM £32 a week

10 MAZDA 6 2.2 D SPORT 5DR, blue, service history, BOSE surround, heated seats, half leather, cruise control, dual climate

£5,990 or FROM £33 a week

08 VAUXHALL VIVARO 2.0 2700 CDTI SWB SPORTIVE, silver, full service history, air con, electric windows, new model

£6,190 or FROM £35 a week

13 SKODA RAPID 1.6 ELEGANCE GREENTECH TDI CR 5DR, grey, full service history, alloys, E/W

£6,490 or FROM £27 a week

13 CITROEN DS3 1.6 E-HDI DSTYLE 3DR, white, 55,288 miles, sat nav, 1 owner, privacy glass, 2 keys, full dealer service history

£6,490 or FROM £36 a week

09 BMW 1 SERIES 2.0 118D SE 2DR, silver, full service history, A/C, new model, phone prep, 2 keys, alloys

£6,990 or FROM £39 a week

62 PEUGEOT 508 1.6 SR SW E-HDI FAP 5DR AUTO, grey, 1 owner, full service history, sat nav

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60 FORD S-MAX 2.0 ZETEC TDCI 5DR, grey, alloys, climate control, 2 keys, full service history

£7,790 or FROM £43 a week

60 NISSAN QASHQAI 2.0 TEKNA DCI 4WD 5DR, grey, full service history, sat nav, pan roof, privacy glass, 2 keys

£7,790 or FROM £43 a week

12 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI S LINE 3DR, blue, 1 company owner, £20 a year tax, 5 services from Audi, face lift model

£7,990 or FROM £44 a week

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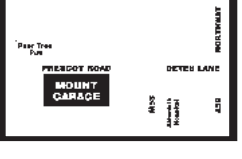

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Home comforts for United but Bursough face testing away trips

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SKELMERSDALE United have three consecutive home games while Burscough have four away games on the spin.

Last night (Tuesday) Skelmersdale were due to face Nantwich Town and then this Saturday they entertain Barwell and on Tuesday, March 14 they host Sutton Coldfield Town.

Burscough were due to travel to Kendal Town last night (Tuesday) before they hit the road again this Saturday at Colne before they play Glossop North End on Tuesday, March 14. Both these will be testing games as each have a chance of making the play-offs.

Skelmersdale are actually in the interesting position of having a glut of home games.

Skelmersdale's game against Barwell is likely to be a feisty encounter.

When the two teams meet there is a history of red cards and controversy, indeed when United travelled down to Leicestershire in November they had two players sent off and the general feeling was that the major decisions on the day favoured Barwell.

Burscough should have a good chance against Kendal as they sit in 16th position in the table, neither in with a shout for promotion, nor in any danger of relegation.

Linnets run out of luck in bottom of the table battle

By **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Burscough 1
Mossley 2

BURSCOUGH lost out in a must-win match which was billed beforehand as a possible relegation decider.

It wasn't lack of effort or spirit, but they were simply beaten by a Mossley side who were the better team in the first-half and a bit lucky in the second.

Victory for Burscough would have given them a good chance of getting out of the bottom two in the Evo-Stik Division One North and put Mossley in danger of being the team they caught.

Burscough and Mossley compete for the ball

Mossley started strongly and Burscough goalkeeper Ben Morrow made a tremendous point blank save to keep out Mitch Bryant.

Burscough were counter-attacking, Josh Nicholson had a couple of efforts as did Thomas Croughan, but Mossley keeper Will Jones wasn't overly troubled.

Just as it started to look like Burscough might hold on until the break Mossley struck.

A nice build-up involving Tom Pratt, saw Bryant's initial effort saved yet again by Morrow, but this time the Linnets keeper was unlucky as the ball went to Bryant who this time couldn't miss.

A couple of minutes later it was almost a double for Mossley, but Morrow saved Burscough again, frustrating Livesey.

Within a minute of the second half Doran won the ball and sent in a volley that dipped just the wrong side of the crossbar.

Doran was creating room for the other forwards and Adam Gilchrist and Croughan both soon went close.

In the 58th minute Burscough won a corner, Croughan drove the ball low into the box and while the Mossley defenders were busy watching out for Doran, Jonah O'Reilly nipped in to steer the ball home from inside the six yard box.

Burscough pressed for a winner and Mossley fell back deeper now relying on the breakaway for their attempts on goal.

In the 75th minute it all went wrong for Burscough, Mossley's Mason Duffy put in a shot from 20 yards and it took a huge deflection, leaving Morrow no chance whatso ever of saving it. It was dreadful bad luck for the Linnets.

The goal also seemed to knock the stuffing out of Burscough, although they still attacked their efforts didn't have the same verve to them and Mossley looked more likely to hit another rather than Burscough level matters.

After weathering a first-half storm Burscough had replied well, they deserved to equalise and but for Mossley's lucky winner, because that is what it was, they could well have got the vital winner and given themselves real hope of saving their season. It will be hard work for them now.

Skem fail to recover from early double injury blow

By **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Corby Town 3
Skelmersdale United 0

SKELMERSDALE never recovered from a disastrous opening 15 minutes which saw them go 1-0 down and two players go off injured.

Corby are the league's form side and going into Saturday's game they had picked up 23 out of their last 30 points, winning six of their last 10 matches.

So it didn't help when Skem conceded after only 11 minutes, a position that was exacerbated by the loss of the experienced Steve Gillespie and forward Nathan Randell to injury.

Corby had done their homework and pressed Skem from an early stages and it was a loose pass that gave them the ball for their opening goal.

After a series of passes the ball went to Ben Milnes who was tackled on the edge of the 18 yard box, but the ball ran to Jordon Crawford, who went between two defenders before slotting home.

Phil Trainer went close for Corby before the hosts made it 2-0 on 23 minutes.

David Bell's diagonal ball opened up Skem and Courtney Wildin drove the ball into the near-post area, Crawford sharply nipped ont o the ball first and stabbed home from about four yards.

Skelmersdale are an inexperienced side and the loss of two of their better players caused problems but they gradually started to establish a hold in the game, although that was to be undone six minutes before the interval.

Bell lifted a free-kick to the far post, home centre-half Aaron Brown lost his marker and launched a diving header into the net.

Skem had not been at the races in the first-half, but this was to change after the restart, though by then they had a mountain to climb.

The wind had helped Corby in the first-half and it almost gave Skem hope early into the second period. Max Allen curled a free kick into the box and the wind sent it on a course for goal, Corby goalkeeper Aidan Grant scrambling across to finger-tip the ball over the crossbar.

United had plenty possession but struggled to create a lot in front of goal, although they did defend a whole lot better when Corby counter-attacked.

For the Steelmen, Brown headed wide and Skem goalkeeper Chris Cheetham made one tremendous save at Stefan Moore's feet.

Skem had their moments and when Jack White and Steve Irwin linked up to put the ball to Remmy Howarth in the goalmouth only a fine reaction save thwarted the Blackburn Rovers loanee.

The Skem youngsters have plenty to learn.

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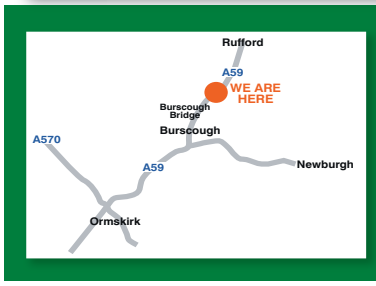

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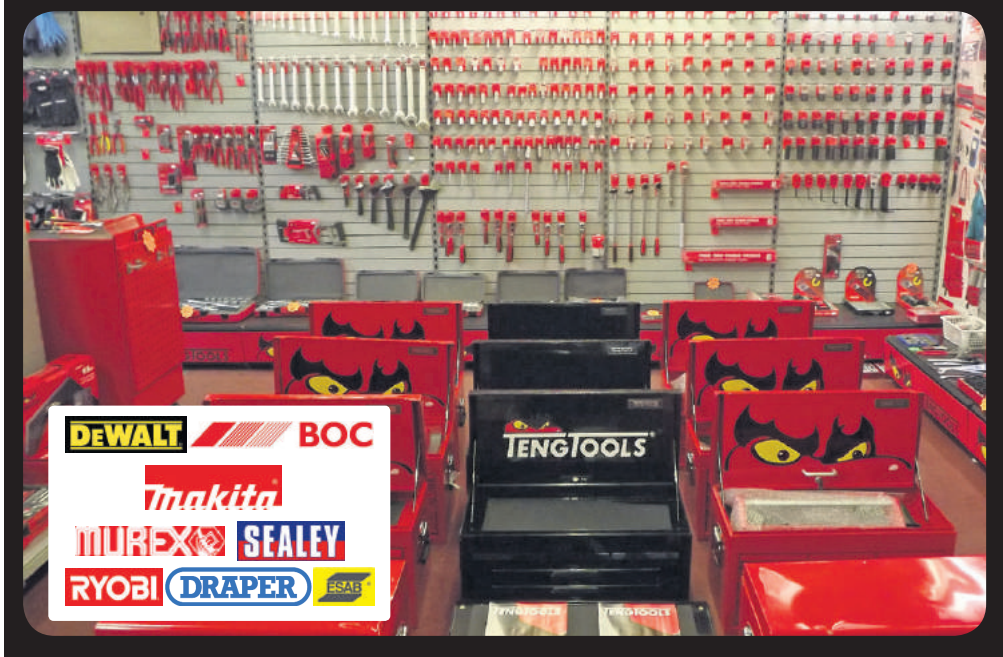

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